DH on Saturday

DECCAN HERALD

The Power of Good

Jadeja's wife Rivaba takes oath as minister

Gujarat CM Bhupendra Patel inducts 19 new faces

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CM: Are Infosys people Bruhaspathis?

Siddaramaiah says survey not restricted to BCs

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THE FAULT LINES IN BMTC DISCOURSE

Should BMTC take the privatisation road?

SHREE D N
BENGALURU, DHNS

Champions of privatisation are obscuring the merits of our public transport corporations and painting a rosy picture of private operators

The recent debate over privatising Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) pits public welfare against market logic. Supporters of privatisation, like Mohandas Pai and Bengaluru South MP Tejasvi Surya, argue that BMTC's monopoly is inefficient and that private operators could bring capital, scale, and innovation, especially in high-demand corridors.

Bengaluru has always had state-owned transport corporations running buses. The demand to bring in private players to public transport is not new.

Muralidhar Rao, a mobility activist now 77, advocated this way back in the 1960s through a public interest litigation, which did not see the light of day. He has been campaigning constantly for ending the monopoly of state-owned bus corporations.

"I'm pitching for the restructuring of BMTC on the lines of the Delhi power supply model, which involves private-public participation and a 49-51% stake for government and the private sector each. Officials will be from the government, and the managing director will be from the private sector," he explains.

"The government does have a social obligation. So the government needs to be a part of it. However, even the government entities have vested interests at play, so to balance profitability, efficiency and social obligation, the private sector needs to be involved intelligently, by bringing in rules and regulations through BMLTA," he advocates.

This will allow buses to run profitably while also bringing accountability and transparency, he argues. What about schemes like Shakti, which offer free travel to women? "Let them be paid through Direct Benefit Transfer," he says.

When free transport matters

Tara Krishnaswamy, who studied the impact of the Shakti scheme recently, was also a part of the 'Bus Bhagya Beku' campaign launched by Citizens for Bengaluru a few years ago.

She notes that two-thirds of women who use the Shakti scheme for daily commute are from lower strata of society. In Bengaluru, 34% of them have got a new job or better-paying job because they did not have to worry about travel expenditure.

"This was possible only because the transport was state-owned. The small jobs, such as cooking and domestic work, mattered to these women, but they were not big enough to pay for the transport. Free transport put all the money in their pocket. In a private transport scene, this cannot be imagined," she points out.

"The pressure of bus occupancy because of the Shakti scheme was so high that the government had to increase the number of buses—something no other campaign could do. We will soon have 10,000 buses on the road," she adds.

She dismisses the argument that BMTC has a monopoly on Bengaluru's roads.

"Today, private buses do exist on the road. BMTC does not have a monopoly. Every company on Outer Ring Road, every private school or college, every factory, hospital, and research institution has buses. They may not have a stage carrier licence (authorisation to pick up and drop random people at designated stops), but they do carry lakhs of people. So Bengaluru's transport already has a huge private share."

"If you introduce private stage carrier buses, BMTC bus occupancy and services will fall. The impact will be on the poor, affecting the economy and GDP of the city," she argues.

Minister responds

State transport minister Ramalinga Reddy has been stressing the importance of public transport remaining truly public ever since the controversy began. "The government spends on health, education and transport not for profit. The improvement in people's quality of life is the benefit the government seeks," Reddy told *DH*, countering the argument that BMTC is incurring losses.

BMTC buses account for 48 lakh trips every day in Bengaluru. DH PHOTO/BK JANARDHAN

"If private operators are allowed to run buses, they will run only where they see profit. Who will serve the underserved areas? Private operators will even hike the fares, making travel unaffordable for the masses," said Reddy, citing the example of very high prices quoted by private bus operators during Dasara for outstation trips.

"Those who advocate for private buses, have they actually travelled in buses? They seek to serve private vested interests," he added. The state has more than 3.8 buses per 1,000 people, while in other cities and states, the ratio is much lower. Forty-eight lakh people use BMTC buses, making it the most successful public transport model. Many progressive cities around the world, such as Singapore, offer free bus services, he pointed out.

BMTC tops the bus chart

Institution	Total buses	Daily commuters (in lakh)
BMTC, Bengaluru	**7,067 (e-buses: 1,799)**	**48**
MTC, Chennai	3,651 (e-buses: 230)	34
BEST, Mumbai	**3,794 (e-buses: 1,121)**	**25**
DTC, Delhi	3,222 (e-buses: 2,526)	24
Kolkata	**750**	**6**

A slippery slope already?

The government is the best custodian to run public transport, and it should never be privatised, says Shaheen Shasa, an urban mobility activist volunteering with Bengaluru Bus Prayanikara Vedike (BBPV). She highlights that BMTC is already inevitably moving towards privatisation to secure FAME funds from the central government to run electric buses.

"This model is the gross cost contracting (GCC) model, where electric buses are currently operated; the government pays per kilometre for outsourced buses with drivers, fuel, etc., and employs only the ticket collector," she explains.

She points out that in this model, the bus owners cut corners and save money by not investing in trained drivers, paying them less, and sometimes cutting maintenance costs as well. This can put the safety of pedestrians and commuters at risk through rash or negligent driving, or affect punctuality and performance.

"We know that these drivers are not paid on par with BMTC drivers, and their training is not as good as well. They do not receive the same benefits as BMTC drivers. All these affect the quality of service," she adds.

"Now these electric buses are new. In the upcoming years, we need to see how maintenance is handled. If more electric buses are deployed, there will be more privatisation. Eventually, all buses will be private if the fleet is 100% electric and the operating model is the same. The government will have less control over the fleet and operators, and will have to yield to all the terms they dictate. It's already on a slippery slope," says Shaheen.

To give context, subsidies under the Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of (Hybrid &) Electric Vehicles (FAME-II) scheme are available only to transport corporations that procure electric buses through the Gross Cost Contract (GCC) model, in which operators are paid per kilometre while ownership remains with the agency. This condition effectively compelled BMTC to adopt the GCC mechanism for its e-bus fleet. Today, Bengaluru has the second-highest number of electric buses among major Indian cities—1,799 out of a total 7,067, second only to Delhi's 2,526 out of 3,222.

'BMTC isn't perfect, but...'

"There are many problems with BMTC, but those are not because it is public-owned," she observes. They are basically because they do not invest in new buses. They used to have an outdated trip completion target that could hit the operations."

"BMTC is also under pressure to be profitable, so they have revenue targets for trips. This sometimes leads to competition between buses, leading to too many buses too quickly on the same route," she adds.

"A normal response to a problem is to fix it. What the advocates of privatising public transport say is that there is a problem with the government, so let's bring in private players. It's like throwing the baby out of bathwater," she says.

"If Mohandas Pai or Tejsvi Surya have any issues with BMTC, let them specify precisely what they are, and we can all fix them together with BMTC. There is nothing the BMTC cannot solve. Useful, constructive conversations can help address issues and improve transport in the city," Shaheen concludes.

Feedback:
pointblank@deccanherald.co.in

METRO

Hebbal's new service road opens to ease festive rush

ASRA MAVAD
BENGALURU, DHNS

In preparation for the festive weekend, the new service road after the Hebbal flyover at Jakkur, towards Yelahanka, became operational from Friday afternoon.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (Traffic, North) Jayaprakash said measures were in place to prevent congestion in and around the Hebbal flyover during the festive season.

"We are anticipating an increase in traffic from Friday evening onwards. To ensure there is no congestion, we have taken two measures — we are barricading the single track that comes from the veterinary college and moving buses there, and buses from the down ramp will be diverted to the new service road," he said.

The new stretch is about 10 metres wide, with a 2.5-metre utility duct and a 1.5-km drain, as earlier reported by *DH*.

"We are in touch with both KSRTC and private bus operators to gather details about the additional buses being added to their fleet for the festive rush. We will plan accordingly," Jayaprakash added.

Regular commuters on the Hebbal flyover said the arterial and service roads continued to face severe traffic snarls.

"The underpasses on this stretch have been built unscientifically, leading to bottlenecks. The service roads are in a terrible state, riddled with potholes. While drivers follow traffic rules on the highway, they tend to ignore them on service roads," said Prashanth Nandiprasad, a commuter.

Travel advisory at airport

The Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) issued a passenger advisory on October 15, ahead of the festive season.

"Passengers are encouraged to arrive early to allow sufficient time for travel formalities," it said.

While some travellers complained of longer queues at the airport over the past two days, an airport source clarified that passenger volume had not significantly changed.

"So far, our daily passenger count has remained around 1.20 lakh. There has been only a marginal increase of about 1,000 passengers. The queues may appear longer due to a rise in DigiYatra users. However, these lines move quickly, and the wait time is about two to three minutes."

The Kogilu U-turn below the airport flyover. Commuters say the underpasses on Airport Road are poorly designed and worsen traffic congestion. CREDIT: PRASHANTH NANDIPRASAD

Building plan must follow norms in force at approval time, not application stage: HC

Cites Supreme court verdict to quash the order

BENGALURU, DHNS

Plan approval must be considered as per the policy or rules in force on the date when the approval is granted, and not those existing at the time of filing the application, the High Court of Karnataka has held.

A division bench comprising Chief Justice Vibhu Bakhru and Justice CM Joshi gave this ruling while setting aside a single-judge order that had directed the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (now the Greater Bengaluru Authority) to sanction a modified building plan in favour of Sangam Enterprises to add additional floors to its 62,000-sqft property in the Majestic area of Bengaluru.

The bench passed this order in an appeal filed by the BBMP against the single-judge order in the Sangam Enterprises' petition.

The firm had sought to utilise a Transferable Development Rights (TDR) certificate dated April 18, 2015, to add floors to its construction on two adjacent properties on Dhanvantari Road and Subedar Chatram Road.

The proposed modification intended to increase the building height from 15 metres to 29.6 metres and relax the setback by 50%, based on a BBMP circular issued in 2009 and the TDR certificates purchased by the firm.

Sangam Enterprises had moved the High Court in 2023 after the BBMP failed to approve the modified plan despite several representations. The single judge had allowed the petition on May 29, 2024, directing the BBMP to consider approving the modified plan submitted by the company.

Challenging this order, the BBMP contended that as on February 22, 2017 — the date on which the firm applied to the Karnataka Fire Service Department for an NOC for the modified plan — Section 14B of the Karnataka Town and Country Planning (KTCP) Act had been amended. The rules had been notified, and under these rules, the setback relaxation was confined to 25%.

The firm, however, argued that the modified plan should be approved in accordance with the rules that existed on the date of its application with the BBMP, on March 28, 2014.

The division bench observed that in terms of the Supreme Court judgments in the Howrah Municipal Corporation and other cases, approval of a building plan must be governed by the rules in force on the date the approval is granted, and not on the date the plan is submitted.

"The writ petitioner (Sangam Enterprises) filed an application seeking NOC for the Modified Plan from the Karnataka Fire Service Department on 22.02.2017. However, as on that date, Section 14B of the KTCP Act had been amended and the rules had been notified. In terms of the rules, the setback relaxation is confined to 25%. Admittedly, the Modified Plan is not in conformity with the said norms. Accordingly, no directions could be issued for sanction of the Modified Plan. Thus, the impugned order directing the appellants to sanction the Modified Plan, permitting the petitioner to utilise the TDR certificate dated 18.04.2015, cannot be sustained," the bench said.

SIT to probe illegal grants in 450-acre Bengaluru forest

BENGALURU, DHNS: A month after the state government ordered a special investigation into the non-mutation of notified forests and the illegal grant of forest land, officials in the Bengaluru Urban division have identified 273 such grants that have cost the city nearly 450 acres of forest.

Following a Supreme Court order, the government had set up a district-level Special Investigation Team (SIT) to identify forest land that remains under the control of the revenue department and those granted even after notification as forest.

Officials from the Bengaluru Urban division have now submitted a consolidated list of such grants to the deputy commissioner's office. The list will be placed before the SIT, headed by the deputy commissioner, for a detailed inquiry.

Nearly 240 of the identified grants fall within the Kaggalipura range forest. Affected forest blocks include Sunkadakatte, Nettigere, Chinnakuruchi, Bhutanahalli, Turahalli Minor Forest, and BM Kaval. The Anekal range accounts for 20 grants, while a few are in Kothanur in northern Bengaluru.

Deputy Conservator of Forests N Ravindrakumar said the details of the grants have been compiled for verification.

"We have listed down the details of the grants in the notified forests as well as Section 4 land. The committee will now look into the grants to decide on the legalities," he said.

Section 4 forests are those for which the government has issued preliminary notification under the Karnataka Forest Act, expressing its intention to declare the area as forest. Persons cultivating such land are entitled to compensation.

Once rights are settled, the government issues a final notification under Section 17 of the Act. Any land grant made after the preliminary notification is illegal.

Studies, including those by the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), have shown that the city's real estate boom has steadily eroded its green spaces. Alongside agricultural and open lands, even notified forests have been encroached upon in the name of development.

As per information obtained under the RTI Act, about 3,000 acres of notified forest land have already been used by the state government for establishing tree parks.

15 NSUI workers arrested for attempting to storm RSS office

BENGALURU, DHNS: Police detained over a dozen workers of the Congress-affiliated National Students Union of India (NSUI) after they attempted to lay siege to the RSS state office, Keshava Krupa, in Shankarapuram on Friday.

Tension gripped the central Bengaluru area for a while following the incident.

Police have registered an FIR against Kirthi Ganesh and 14 workers under Bharatiya Nyay Sanhita (BNS) sections related to trespassing and rioting. Upon learning about the protest, RSS leaders rushed to the office. Police brought the situation under control and took precautionary measures to prevent untoward incidents. The protesters were released later.

BJP writes to top cop

BJP workers have submitted a complaint to Bengaluru Police Commissioner Seemant Kumar Singh, demanding legal action against protesters who demanded a ban on the RSS.

Nimhans hosts Mental Health Santhe 4.0

BENGALURU, DHNS: The National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (Nimhans) organised 'Mental Health Santhe 4.0' on Friday to promote mental wellness, resilience, and collective responsibility for suicide prevention by bringing together experts, students, and NGOs.

Dr Pratima Murthy

This year's theme is "Community Supporting Mental Well-being Together".

The two-day workshop is open and free to all.

On the first day, more than 3,000 visitors, including students, faculty, health professionals, NGO representatives and members of the public, participated in the event, held under the shared mission of mental health awareness and suicide prevention.

The event featured interactive stalls showcasing counselling resources, helplines, and mental health initiatives.

It also included film screenings on mental well-being to encourage reflection and conversation, as well as hands-on activities to help all the participants understand brain functioning.

'Poetry Pharmacy'

A special attraction was a poetry session titled "Poetry Pharmacy" by poet Mariyam Saigal, who offered personalised poetic reflections inspired by people's emotions.

Dr Pratima Murthy, Director of Nimhans, said, "Mental, neurological, and substance use disorders must be viewed through a shared lens of understanding and compassion."

Speaking about suicide prevention, she added, "Suicide prevention begins with valuing life, helping people find hope rather than helplessness. Our senior citizens remind us that resilience can flourish at any age, leading to healthy and joyful ageing."

DH on Saturday

DECCAN HERALD
The Power of Good

WHACKY VERSE

Belgian court clears Choksi's extradition: Officials

P10

My work with terminally ill kids

A doctor reflects on life inside a paediatric palliative care ward

In this week's Saturday Story, a paediatric palliative care physician based in Hyderabad, reflects on the importance of his work and the difference it makes to families and patients mired in despair.

The SATURDAY STORY

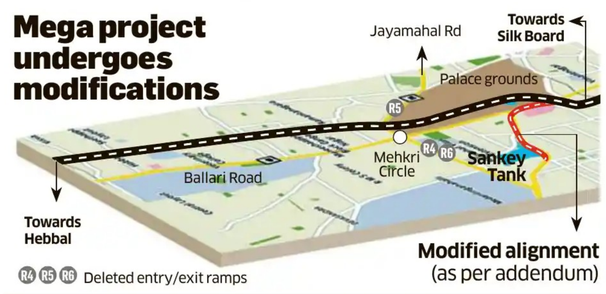
Full story, Page 15

Alignment altered, tunnel trouble for Sankey Tank

Exit planned near water body; Mehkri Circle ramps axed

DH SPECIAL

NAVEEN MENEZES
BENGALURU, DHNS



The 16.75-km Bengaluru tunnel road project has undergone a major redesign, with authorities dropping at least three entry and exit ramps that were originally planned at Mehkri Circle.

In the revised plan, a new exit ramp — passing underneath Sankey Road before emerging on the opposite side of the lake's entrance at 18th Cross in Malleswaram — has been added.

These last-minute changes to the detailed project report (DPR), which indicate absence of long-term planning, were reportedly introduced to accommodate another project along the same corridor which involves building a two-km tunnel road beneath Hebbal junction to ease congestion on the existing flyover.

Under the original plan, the north–south twin-tube underground road featured a total of 16 ramps in order to serve different areas along the alignment.

Four ramps each were proposed at Hebbal, Mehkri Circle and Vidhana Soudha, while Lalbagh and St John's Hospital were to have two each.

In the revised design, Bengaluru Smart Infrastructure Ltd (B-SMILE) has dropped three of the four ramps at Mehkri Circle — two meant for vehicles between CV Raman Road and the airport, and an 820-metre exit ramp towards Jayamahal Road.

Only the entry ramp from Jayamahal to the main tunnel towards Silk Board Junction has been retained.

Instead of exiting at CV Raman Road, vehicle users travelling north from Silk Board will now take a left near Bangalore Golf Club, with the new exit ramp emerging close to Sankey Tank. This underground stretch will run approximately 2.45 km.

Beyond Mehkri Circle, B-SMILE has made minor adjustments to the alignment at Hebbal to avoid diversion of a nala (stormwater drain) and small design changes at St John's Hospital on Hosur Road to expand the cut-and-cover section, which involves open excavation rather than boring.

The redesign is expected to save around Rs 419 crore from the project's initial estimates, officials said. However, with an estimated total outlay of Rs 17,800 crore, citizen groups argue the government could save much more by shelving the "car-centric" project altogether.

Meanwhile, others have voiced concerns over the environmental impact, particularly near Sankey Tank, a British-era waterbody in North Bengaluru.

"An exit ramp near the lake will only worsen traffic at the junction where vehicles from 18th Cross, Sampige Road and Sankey Road meet. More importantly, it could endanger the lake's ecosystem," said Preeti Sunderajan of Citizens for Sankey. "We don't know how strong the bund beneath Sankey Road really is. Digging a tunnel there could pose a serious risk, especially since downstream areas like Vyalikaval are residential."

Responding to the criticism, B S Prahallad, Technical Director at B-SMILE, said the changes were necessary to integrate the short tunnel at Hebbal but insisted the new ramp would pose no threat to the lake or its waste weir.

SC internal quota: HC bars appointments under 6:6:5 rule

AMBARISH B
BENGALURU, DHNS

The Karnataka High Court has restrained the state government from making any appointments based on the August 25, 2025, notification fixing 6:6:5 internal reservation matrix for the Scheduled Caste (SC) category.

"Though the recruitment process could go on, the respondents are restrained from appointing any persons based on the notification," Justice Suraj Govindaraj has said in an interim order.

The court has now posted the matter to November 13 for further consideration while directing the Department of Social Welfare to file a statement of objections, if any, by November 5.

The petition was filed by the Confederation of Untouchable Nomadic Communities of Karnataka and others challenging the August notification.

▸ Internal quota, Page 6

College rape: Suspect suspended

BENGALURU, DHNS: The BMS College of Engineering has suspended a 21-year-old student arrested for raping a senior on the campus last week. It has also formed a disciplinary committee to take "necessary action" in keeping with the college norms and regulations.

The college floor, where the assault occurred, does not seem to have CCTVs, a senior police officer said.

Details on Page 2

Aland 'vote chori': SIT searches houses of BJP leader's sons

KALABURAGI, DHNS: The Special Investigation Team (SIT) probing the Aland 'vote chori' case conducted searches at the houses and business establishments belonging to the children of BJP leader and former MLA Subhas Guttedar here on Friday.

SIT sleuths inspect the premises linked to BJP leader Subhas Guttedar in Kalaburagi on Friday.
DH PHOTO/TAJUDDIN AZAD

The case, which received national attention, pertains to alleged efforts to delete over 6,000 names from the Aland voters' list ahead of the 2023 Assembly polls.

Guttedar had unsuccessfully contested against senior Congress leader B R Patil.

The SIT team has been camping in Kalaburagi for the last three days and conducting search operations at multiple locations.

Sources said several documents, purportedly related to the voters' list, were burnt in front of Guttedar's house when the SIT visited Aland on Friday.

Local Congress leader R K Patil alleged that BJP leaders had dumped some documents in the nearby Shakapur lake before the SIT arrived in Aland. In light of this allegation, police inspected the areas around the lake as well.

▸ Aland, Page 6

Draft 'RSS law' dropped after Cabinet caution

BENGALURU, DHNS

Signalling the Congress' seriousness in going after the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), the government drafted a new law regulating the activities of private organisations with penal provisions, but Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's Cabinet chose not to go ahead with it.

The proposed law, tentatively titled 'Regulation of Use of Government Premises and Properties Bill, 2025', was discussed in the Cabinet on Thursday.

It reportedly mandated private organisations to seek permission for events at government premises. Violation would result in two-year imprisonment and a fine of Rs 50,000. Repeat violation meant three-year jail and up to Rs 1 lakh fine. The Bill also proposed a daily penalty of Rs 5,000. Sources said the Bill was met with caution within the Cabinet.

▸ Cabinet, Page 6

DGP Saleem proposed curbs

Director-General of Police M A Saleem wrote to the government on October 15 seeking curbs on the activities of private organisations in public places, which became the basis for the Cabinet to decide on issuing a fresh order, it has emerged.

Details on Page 4

PDO suspended, Page 4

SHAKTI SCHEME

CM deletes tweet after 'world record' goof-up

ASRA MAVAD
BENGALURU, DHNS

Claim by London Book of World Records

- Shakti Scheme: Largest number of free bus rides availed by women
- KSRTC: Transport corporation with most awards
- BJP points to grammatical and spelling errors in the certificate
- London Book of World Records dissolved in July 2025

The Karnataka government came under fire on Friday over the credibility of certificates claiming 'world records' for the highest number of women availing themselves of free travel tickets under the Shakti scheme and the KSRTC as the road transport corporation winning most awards.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's post on X kicked off the controversy. "Karnataka enters the global stage with two historic world records - certified by the London Book of World Records. Shakti Scheme: Largest number of free bus rides availed by women - 564.10 crore journeys, empowering everyday mobility. KSRTC: Most award-winning road transport corporation in the world - 464 national & international honours since 1997..."

He attached photos of two certificates for 'Most award-winning road transport corporation - KSRTC Karnataka' and 'Highest number of women free travel tickets availed in Karnataka'.

Under the post, the Community Notes, a fact-checking tool on X, said, "London Book of World Records is a private limited company in the UK. The company was dissolved as of July 15, 2025, according to UK Companies House. This does not appear authentic."

The post by the CM has since been taken down.

Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy stated: "The intent of the post was to celebrate Karnataka's commitment to progressive governance and efficient public service delivery. However, the post was targeted, with concerns raised about the credentials of the awarding organisation. This led to the addition of a community note by Twitter and eventual deletion of the tweet... The post was withdrawn solely to avoid distraction from the substance of the accomplishments."

▸ Shakti scheme, Page 6

A nurse at Minto Eye Hospital prepares first-aid kits in a ward designated for firecracker injury emergencies.
DH PHOTO/PRASHANTH HG

Minto readies 'cracker ward' ahead of Deepavali

BENGALURU, DHNS: As Deepavali approaches, doctors at the government-run Minto Ophthalmic Hospital have issued an advisory urging the public to avoid bursting crackers during the festival.

Hospital data shows that 71 people suffered eye injuries during last year's celebrations.

To ensure smooth treatment, the hospital has readied 25 beds in its dedicated cracker ward and kept another 20 beds on standby for mass-casualty cases. Additional doctors and postgraduate students will be deployed for 15 days from the day of the festival, as several cases are also reported during the Tulasi Festival.

"Bystanders make up around 50% of the victims every year. People need to be more careful of their surroundings," said Hospital Director Dr Shashidhar S.

He said the most common cause of accidents is attempting to relight failed crackers. "Bijli crackers, often burst by hand, are among the major causes of severe injuries," he added.

"While buying green crackers, people should make sure that the box carries the CSIR-NEERI certification stamp and scan the QR code on the box to verify authenticity," Dr Shashidhar said.

He added that the Department of Plastic Surgery and the Trauma Centre are also equipped to handle related emergencies.

Doctors advised against washing the eyes in case of an injury. Instead, patients should cover the eye with a wet cloth and visit the nearest hospital or Minto immediately.

They also suggested using long sticks to light crackers and avoiding bursting them near children aged below five.

24/7 helplines

During emergencies, citizens can contact the hospital's 24/7 helplines: 080-26707176, 080-26706221, and 9481740137.

Student suspended for rape; cops say no CCTV near crime scene

College forms disciplinary committee

ASHWIN BM
BENGALURU, DHNS

A Bengaluru college has suspended a 21-year-old student arrested for raping a senior on the campus last week.

It has also formed a disciplinary committee to take "necessary action" as per the college norms and regulations.

Jeevan Gowda, 21, a fifth-semester student, was arrested on Wednesday for raping the seventh-semester girl inside the men's washroom on the sixth floor of BMS College of Engineering, Basavanagudi, on October 10. He later allegedly asked if she needed a pill.

DH was the first to report the story.

Gowda, arrested on October 15, is in judicial custody until October 30.

The college floor where the sexual assault occurred does not seem to have CCTV surveillance, a senior police officer said.

"The truth is that we have not found any camera or footage. In fact, the complaint stated that the suspect chose that particular floor because there is no CCTV surveillance there," the officer told *DH*.

The college witnessed frenetic activity on Friday.

Students and staff said they were unaware of the incident until they saw the *DH* report.

BHEEMSHA ARYA
College principal

"For every 25-30 students, we have assigned a proctor who addresses anything from stress to mental health issues. For this girl, a lady professor was assigned as her proctor and she, too, is not aware of the incident.

College principal Bheemsha Arya said that the student had been suspended and a disciplinary committee would take necessary action as per the college norms and procedures.

Speaking to *DH*, the principal maintained that all college floors have CCTV surveillance at the entry and exit points. He also stressed that the college had robust student support measures.

"For every 25-30 students, we have assigned a proctor who addresses anything from stress to mental health issues," he stated. "For this girl, a lady professor was assigned as her proctor and she, too, is not aware of the incident."

Other staff members noted that the college had no role in the incident and that the administration was not at all aware of the matter.

ABVP members protest

Activists of the BJP-affiliated Akhila Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) barged into the principal's chamber and demanded answers about the "lack" of institutional response.

2 held for college girl's murder in Malleswaram

Key suspect created 'Mission Yamini Priya' WhatsApp group to watch her

Harish

Vignesh

BENGALURU, DHNS

Police have cracked the case of a college girl's brutal murder in Malleswaram by arresting two men, including a neighbour who had allegedly stalked her for days.

Srirampura police on Friday announced the arrest of Vignesh alias Sanjay, 26, a habitual offender, and his friend Harish, 30, a daily wage worker. They were arrested from Soladevanahalli in northwestern Bengaluru. Police are preparing to produce both men before court to seek their custody for interrogation.

The victim, 20-year-old Yamini Priya, was accosted and stabbed to death while returning home from college near Mantri Sampige Square mall in Malleswaram on Thursday afternoon. She was a BPharma student at a private college in Banashankari.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (North) BS Nemagouda said Vignesh had been coercing Yamini to marry him, but she had repeatedly rejected his advances. Enraged, he allegedly plotted to kill her with Harish's help. The men had purchased a knife from a local shop, the officer added.

Harish had assisted Vignesh by dropping him near the spot on a motorbike and waited nearby while the crime was committed. He later sheltered Vignesh near a college in Soladevanahalli, police said.

Police have seized the two-wheeler allegedly used in the crime.

Speaking to reporters on Friday, Yamini's mother, Varalakshmi, demanded that the suspect be killed in an encounter, saying her daughter had been "murdered mercilessly". The body was cremated after a post-mortem examination at Victoria Hospital.

'Mission Yamini Priya'

Investigations have revealed that prime suspect Vignesh had created a WhatsApp group named 'Mission Yamini Priya' to track her movements. He had reportedly added five of her friends to the group to gather information about her whereabouts, a senior officer said.

Police stop cracker distribution at Munirathna's office

BENGALURU, DHNS

High drama unfolded outside BJP MLA N Munirathna's office on Laggere Main Road in northwest Bengaluru on Friday after police allegedly attempted to lock the premises over the distribution of firecrackers.

According to Nandini Layout police, a team rushed to Munirathna's office in Lakshmidevi Nagar, opposite Dr Rajkumar Memorial, following a tip-off that his supporters were distributing crackers in the area.

"Storing or distributing firecrackers without permission is not allowed. We advised him to stop and warned that a case would be booked under the Explosives Act if the activity continued," a police officer said.

MLA hits out at police

Munirathna, however, accused the police of targeting him.

"I have been distributing firecrackers to residents for the past 12 years during the festive season. This time, police stopped me even though I haven't stored them in any godown. They are intentionally restricting me and insisting on police permission for everything," he told reporters.

Munirathna, who represents the RR Nagar Assembly constituency, is known for distributing cookers, saris, and rice kits to his constituents during festivals and election time.

Minor arrested for sexually abusing 15-year-old girl

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Shankarpuram police have registered a case under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (Pocso) Act against a minor boy for allegedly luring a 15-year-old girl with chocolates and ice cream and sexually assaulting her.

A senior police officer said the boy, a PU student from Rajasthan, and the victim, from Nepal, were neighbours. He had befriended the girl.

Gave birth at home

The incident came to light recently after the girl delivered a baby boy at home. Her parents, unaware of her pregnancy, rushed her to a hospital after she gave birth.

Following a complaint, the Shankarpuram police registered a Pocso case, and the boy has been sent to a juvenile home.

LoP flags 'rising' crimes against women

Leader of Opposition in the Legislative Assembly R Ashoka on Friday wrote to the National Commission for Women (NCW), seeking its intervention over what he described as "rising" crimes against women and minors and the "deteriorating" law and order situation in Karnataka. Citing official data and media reports, he said 979 cases of sexual assault and atrocities against minors had been reported in the last four months across the state, with Bengaluru alone accounting for over 114 such cases.

Traffic advisory

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Bengaluru Traffic Police (BTP) on Friday issued an advisory for the long festival weekend as thousands of people head out of the city ahead of Deepavali. The BTP identified six locations as potential traffic hotspots.

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Dear Customers,

We wish to inform you that with effect from December 1, 2025, we are relocating to a more convenient location. The address is as mentioned below:

New address: ICICI Bank Ltd., Ground Floor, M3 Food Court, Acasia Tower, Manyata Tech Park, Bangalore, Karnataka - 560045.

There would be no change in your account numbers or the security items issued to you. Assuring you of the best services at all times.

Sincerely,
Branch Manager, Bangalore-Manyata Tech Park Branch

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पथ निर्माण विभाग, पथ प्रमण्डल, देवघर

ई-प्रोक्योरमेंट सूचना (1st Call)

ई–निविदा प्रसंग संख्या - RCD/DEOGHAR/1816//2025-26 (1st Call)
Date :-15.10.2025

1.	कार्य का नाम	पथ प्रमण्डल, देवघर अन्तर्गत "चाँदडीह (पी0डब्लू0डी0 पथ MDR-229) से तिलौना (पी0डब्लू0डी0 पथ MDR-235) भाया सिमरा, खासपेका, पिछड़ीबाद, मथुरापुर, हुसैनाबाद, कथारी पथ के कि0मी0 0.00 से कि0मी0 21.870 (कुल लम्बाई–21.870 कि0मी0) का राईडिंग क्वालिटी में सुधार (Improvement of Riding Quality) / मजबूतीकरण कार्य"
2.	प्राक्कलित राशि (रुपये में)	रुपये **12,17,11,757.00** (बारह करोड़ सत्रह लाख ग्यारह हजार सात सौ सनतावन रुपये मात्र)।
3.	कार्य समाप्ति की अवधि	06 (छः) माह
4.	निविदा प्राप्ति की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय	19.11.2025 (12:00 बजे दिन तक)
5.	वेबसाईट पर निविदा प्रकाशित होने की तिथि एवं समय	30.10.2025 (10:30 बजे पूर्वाह्न)
6	निविदा आमंत्रित करने वाले का नाम एवं पता	कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय, पथ निर्माण विभाग, पथ प्रमण्डल, देवघर।
7	प्रोक्युरमेंट अधिकारी का सम्पर्क नम्बर	**06432-299919**
8.	ई–प्रोक्युरमेंट सेल का हेल्पलाईन नम्बर	0651–2401010

नोट – अतिरिक्त जानकारी के लिए वेबसाईट http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in पर देखें।

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PR 364404 Deoghar (25-26)_D

MINISTRY OF CULTURE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

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MINISTRY OF CULTURE, GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
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AWARD OF SENIOR/JUNIOR FELLOWSHIPS TO OUTSTANDING PERSONS IN THE FIELDS OF CULTURE FOR THE YEAR 2025-26

Offline Applications are invited by CCRT, Ministry of Culture, Govt.of India for the award of Junior and Senior Fellowship for undertaking research oriented projects in the field of Performing, Literary, Plastic Arts and New Areas related to Culture.

Applications are invited for the year 2025-26 with effect from dated **18th October, 2025.** The number of Junior & Senior Fellowship to be awarded for this year is 200 each. Details of the schemes, instructions for applicants, eligibility conditions/ criteria and Application Form are available on the following websites of the Ministry of Culture Government of India and CCRT.

www.indiaculture.gov.in

www.ccrtIndia.gov.in

ONLY OFFLINE APPLICATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED

The last date for submitting the completely filled application form by post or by-hand etc. to the above mentioned address of CCRT, New Delhi is **01st December, 2025.**

CBC 09127/12/0003/2526

S. E. RAILWAY – TENDER

Tender Notice No.: e-Tender/2025/35, Date: 16.10.2025. For and on behalf of President of India, the Divisional Railway Manager (Engg.), South Eastern Railway, Kharagpur-721301 invites e-tender for the following works **before 15.00 hrs.** on the date mentioned against items and will be **opened at 15.30 hrs. Sl.No.**-1. **Tender No.: E-KGP-South-53-2025. Description of work:** Execution of the work of Through Fittings Renewal i.e. TFR of 57.500 Tr Km in Kharagpur-Nuagan Mayurbhanj Road section under ADEN (South)/Kharagpur. **Tender Value:** ₹ 64,63,921.41. **Earnest Money:** ₹ 1,29,300. **Sl.No.**-2. **Tender No.: E-KGP-South-54-2025. Description of work:** (i) Standardization of non-interlocked gate goomty & (ii) Improvement of gate goomty, provision of shed, 24 hrs. water supply and toilet facilities in Rupsa-Bangriposi section under ADEN/Balasore. **Tender Value:** ₹ 5,78,00,644.65. **Earnest Money:** ₹ 4,39,000. **Sl.No.**-3. **Tender No.: E-KGP-South-58-2025. Description of work:** Provision of 24 hrs. piped water supply and improvement of toilet facilities in Hijli-Narayangarh section under ADEN/South. **Tender Value:** ₹ 94,10,415.01. **Earnest Money:** ₹ 1,88,200. **Sl.No.**-4. **Tender No.: E-KGP-HQ-43-2025. Description of work:** Execution of (i) Through Turnout Renewal i.e., TTR 1 in 12, 60 Kg (TWS+WCMSC) - 10 sets in Panskura-Haldia section, (ii) Through Turnout Renewal i.e., TTR 1 in 8.5, 60 Kg (TWS+WCMSC) - 12 sets in Panskura-Haldia section, (iii) Overhauling of 60 nos. LC and Connecting Road in Tamluk-Digha section & (iv) Renewal of Switch Expansion Joint (SEJ) in Tamluk-Digha section under the jurisdiction of ADEN/Tamluk. **Tender Value:** ₹ 2,12,72,110.72. **Earnest Money:** ₹ 2,56,400. **Sl.No.**-5. **Tender No.: E-KGP-HQ-44-2025. Description of work:** Civil Engineering work in connection with Improvement of Power system arrangement for SS No. 6 and SS No. 5 under SSEE/North/ Kharagpur (2nd Call). **Tender Value:** ₹ 70,47,861.19. **Earnest Money:** ₹ 1,41,000. **Sl.No.**-6. **Tender No.: E-KGP-WEST-46-2025. Description of work:** Nimpura: Improvement to leaky roof, rain water pipes, drainage system of service buildings under the jurisdiction of ADEN/West/Kharagpur. **Tender Value:** ₹ 1,03,38,846.88. **Earnest Money:** ₹ 2,01,700. **Sl.No.**-7. **Tender No.: E-KGP-WEST-47-2025. Description of work:** Kharagpur-Midnapore-Kalaikunda: Improvement/ Augmentation of Infrastructure at LC gates (surface, fencing, Height gauge, toilets and provision of tube well 10 nos.) under the jurisdiction of ADEN/West/Kharagpur. **Tender Value:** ₹ 2,22,83,673.68. **Earnest Money:** ₹ 2,61,400. **Sl.No.**-8. **Tender No.: E-KGP-WEST-48-2025. Description of work:** Kharagpur-Tatanagar: Improvement/ Augmentation of Infrastructure at LC gates (surface, fencing, Height gauge, toilets & provision of tube well 11 nos.) under the jurisdiction of ADEN/Jhargram. **Tender Value:** ₹ 2,54,96,592.03. **Earnest Money:** ₹ 2,77,500. **Tender Document Cost:** ₹ 0 (for Sl.No. 1 to 8 each). **Date of opening:** 30.10.2025 (for Sl.No. 1 & 2), 06.11.2025 (for Sl.No. 3 to 5 each) & 10.11.2025 (for Sl.No. 6 to 8 each). **Completion period of the work:** 12 months (for Sl.No. 1 to 6 each) & 15 months (for Sl.No. 7 & 8). **Bidding start date:** From 16.10.2025 and up to 15.00 hrs. on 30.10.2025 (for Sl.No. 1 & 2), from 23.10.2025 and up to 15.00 hrs. on 06.11.2025 (for Sl.No. 3 to 5 each) & from 27.10.2025 and up to 15.00 hrs. on 10.11.2025 (for Sl.No. 6 to 8 each). Interested tenderers may visit website **www.ireps.gov.in** for full details/ descriptions/specification of the tenders and submit their bids online. In no case manual tender for these works will be accepted. **N.B.:** Prospective bidders may regularly visit **www.ireps.gov.in** to participate in all tenders. **(PR-735)**

Government of India
Ministry of Defence
Defence Research and Development Organisation
DRDO Bhawan, Rajaji Marg, New Delhi-110 011

Email: dte-pers.hqr@gov.in
Ph : 011-23007218, Fax : 011-23014576

INVITING THE NOMINATIONS FOR DRDO NATIONAL LEVEL AWARDS FOR THE YEARS 2024 & 2025

DRDO is inviting nominations for the following two categories of National Level Awards for the years 2024 & 2025 to recognise and honour individuals who have exhibited exceptional research contribution in the field of Defence Science and Technology: -

(i)	Dr. Kothari Defence Science Award	01 award each carrying a citation and cash amount of Rs.10 Lakhs for both the years 2024 & 2025 separately
(ii)	Dr. Kalam Defence Technology Award	01 award each carrying a citation and cash amount of Rs. 10 Lakhs for both the years 2024 & 2025 separately

Individuals serving in Government or Public or Private Sectors may be nominated for their distinguished services contributed in the field of Basic Research in Defence Science or in the field of Development of Defence Technology.

The nomination in the prescribed nomination format for National Level Awards will be accepted only through the Ministry / Departments / Organisation / Private Agencies (the consent of the nominee reflected through his signature in the Nomination Form and Personal Information Form is mandatory). The nominations **directly** from any individual will NOT be accepted.

The nominations may be submitted to Directorate of Personnel, DRDO HQ, DRDO Bhawan, Rajaji Marg, New Delhi -110011 within 45 days from the date of publication of advertisement. A soft copy of the nomination form duly completed with all compulsory documents may be mailed to email ID **dte-pers.hqr@gov.in.**

The prescribed pro-formas and further details are available on DRDO website **(https://drdo.gov.in).**

*** The nominations received in response to this office advertisement dated 18 Oct 2024 for the year 2024 stands cancelled.**

CBC 10301/11/0116/2526

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
RAILWAY RECRUITMENT CELL, HUBBALLI

Indicative Advertisement for
RECRUITMENT AGAINST SPORTS QUOTA (OPEN ADVERTISEMENT) IN GROUP 'C' & ERSTWHILE GROUP 'D' CATEGORIES ON SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY FOR THE YEAR-2025-26

[Employment Notice No. SWR/P-HQ/Sports (OA)/25-26, dated : 21.10.2025]

Online Application Opening Date : 21.10.2025

Application Closing Date : 20.11.2025 (23:59 hrs)

South Western Railway invites ONLINE application from the eligible sportspersons who are citizens of India, for filling up 46 Posts of Group 'C' categories in Level-5/4 & Level-3/2 and Erstwhile Group 'D' categories in Level-1 of the Railway Services (Revised Pay) Rules, 2016 against Sports Quota (Open Advertisement) under various disciplines for the year 2025-26.

The notification with full details such as Educational Qualification, Sports Qualification, Age, Mode of Selection, Examination Fee, How to Apply and other important instructions along with relevant annexure are placed on the official website of Railway Recruitment Cell, Hubballi i.e. **www.rrchubli.in**

For detailed notification and online application, please visit official website : www.rrchubli.in

CHAIRMAN
Railway Recruitment Cell, South Western Railway, Hubballi

PUB/527/AAD360/PRB/SWR/2025-26

South Western Railway - SWR SWRRLY @SWRAILWAYHQ @sw_railways

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
RAILWAY RECRUITMENT CELL, HUBBALLI

Indicative Advertisement for
RECRUITMENT AGAINST SCOUTS & GUIDES QUOTA (OPEN ADVERTISEMENT) ON SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY & RAIL WHEEL FACTORY, YELHANKA FOR THE YEAR 2025-26
(Employement Notice No.SWR/P-HQ/Scouts & Guides/25-26 Dated : 21-10-2025)

Online Application Opening Date : 21-10-2025
Application Closing Date : 20-11-2025 (23:59 hrs.)

Online applications are invited from Scouts & Guides persons having minimum educational and Scouts & Guides Qualification for recruitment in Level-2 (GP- Rs. 1900) and Level-1 (GP- Rs. 1800) against Scouts & Guides quota on South Western Railway & Rail Wheel Factory, Yelahanka for the year 2025-26 as indicated below :

S.No.	Post	Scale of Pay	No. of Posts	Distribution of Posts
1	Group-C	Level-2 (7th CPC) Grade Pay Rs. 1900	03 (Three)	02 posts for SWR and 01 post for RWF/YNK
2	Erstwhile Group-D	Level-1 (7th CPC) Grade Pay Rs. 1800	08 (Eight)	06 posts for SWR and 02 post for RWF/YNK

The candidate may apply for Level-2 (Grade Pay Rs. 1900) **(or)** Level-1 (Grade Pay Rs. 1800) **(or)** both the notification with full details such as Educational Qualification and Scouts & Guides Qualification, Age, Mode of selection, Examination Fee, How to Apply and other important instructions along with relevant annexure are placed on the official website of Railway Recruitment Cell, Hubballi i.e. **www.rrchubli.in**

For detailed notification and online application, please visit official website: www.rrchubli.in

PUB/516/AAF/PRB/SWR/2025-26

Chairman
Railway Recruitment Cell, South Western Railway, Hubballi

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Third Prize/Bronze Medal (01 No.)	₹ 20,000/-	₹ 20,000/-	₹ 30,000/-	₹ 30,000/-
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*National winners will also receive laptops/tablets and an opportunity for a study tour in India!

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LAST DATE FOR SUBMISSION OF PAINTINGS
07th Nov 2025

CBC 34106/15/0013/2526

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A statutory body under Ministry of Power, Government of India
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Narendra Modi
Prime Minister

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CBC 34106/15/0012/2526

BUREAU OF ENERGY EFFICIENCY (BEE)
A statutory body under Ministry of Power, Government of India
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For any queries, call 011-26499370/78
(09:30 AM - 05:00 PM)

Visit www.mib.gov.in and nfaindia.org for the regulations and for online submission till 31/10/2025 (by 5:00 PM)

All documents must be sent to the given address:

National Film Awards Cell
Ministry of Information and Broadcasting
Government of India
Siri Fort Auditorium Complex
August Kranti Marg
New Delhi - 110049

Email: nfa.mib@gov.in | 72nfa2024@gmail.com
Website: www.mib.gov.in | nfaindia.org

CBC 22201/11/0017/2526

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Ad UIN 046/2025-26

Deepavali rush: 95 special trains from Bengaluru

BENGALURU, DHNS: To cater to the long weekend rush during Deepavali and Chhath Puja season, the South Western Railway (SWR) is operating multiple special trains linking Bengaluru to other cities across the country.

The SWR is operating over 95 special trains, compared to 36 the previous year.

These trains are operating to destinations within Karnataka, including Belagavi, Bidar, Hubballi, Karwar, Mysuru and Vijayapura. Additionally, travel patterns during the weekend rush towards Tamil Nadu and Kerala, including Kollam, Tiruchirappalli and Chennai, have been analysed to optimise services.

Recognising the long-distance travel demands, 20 trains have been operated to Patna/Danapur. Also, several trains have been operational to Gomtinagar, Lalkuan, Rishikesh, Howrah, Santragachi, Tinsukia and Narangi. Special trains have also been notified to destinations like Narsapur, Visakhapatnam, Bhubaneswar and Bilaspur.

In a statement, the SWR stated that the Bengaluru railway division carried out a comprehensive analysis to understand travel patterns and waitlist trends well in advance.

"A war-footing exercise was conducted to identify the required trains and coaches, ensure their proper maintenance, and plan the train services accordingly," it read.

INU gets NABH accreditation

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Institute of Nephro-Urology (INU) has received accreditation from the National Accreditation Board for Hospitals and Healthcare Providers (NABH).

Established in 2007 on the Victoria Hospital campus, the institute exclusively treats nephrology and urology cases.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah handed over the accreditation certificate to INU Director Dr M Shivalingaiah on Thursday.

Commending the achievement, Siddaramaiah said, "Our government is actively promoting initiatives and partnerships that elevate healthcare standards, making advanced and affordable treatment accessible to every citizen."

Dr Shivalingaiah said, "It assures our patients in both Bengaluru and Mysuru that they are receiving care that meets the most stringent national standards."

The Mysuru unit of INU is located on the KR Hospital campus.

DH
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◆ IN THE CITY ◆

GENERAL

Memorial meet: M Chandrashekar and Sandhya by Hulikal Muniswamappa Munivenkatamma Charitable Trust; HN Nagamohan Das to attend; Chandrashekar Bhavana; 10.30 am.

Book release: Kannadave Satya Pratishtana; BR Lakshman Rao, KN Ganeshayya and Bem. Shri. Ravindra to attend; Indian Institute of World Culture; 10.30 am.

'Nakutanti Shashtipoorthi Naada-9': Special Lecture by Akhila Bharatiya Sahitya Parishat; GB Harish, MS Narasimhamoorthy to attend; Udayabhanu; 4.30 pm.

CULTURAL

Children's Vachana Fair: Vachana Jyothi Balaga; Kalagrama Complex, Mallathahalli; 9.30 am onwards.

Govatsa Dwadashi Celebration: Vishwaprasannatheertha Swamiji, Tejaswini Ananthkumar, Asagodu Jayasimha; Poornaprajna Vidyapeetha Pratishthana; 6 pm.

Music Service Programme: Violin by S Shashidhar, Vocal by Rekha Harinath, Mridangam by N Murali; Yoganarasimha Sannidhi; Venugopalaswamy Temple; 6.15 pm.

Invites to be published in this column should be sent to: **incitytoday@deccanherald.co.in.** Please note that hard copies will not be accepted

◆ CITY WEATHER ◆

FORECAST

Generally cloudy sky with one or two spells of rain and thundershowers

TEMPERATURES

Maximum	28.4°C
Minimum	21.2°C
Rainfall (as of 8:30 am)	--
Humidity (as of 5:30 pm)	83%
Sunset (Oct 18)	6:00 pm
Sunrise (Oct 19)	6:10 am
Moonrise	2:43 am
Moonset	3:24 pm

(Relevant data recorded at 5.30 pm) Source: IMD

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Govt suspends PDO for attending RSS event, cites rule violation

Opposition BJP terms it 'assault on patriotic sentiments'

BENGALURU, DHNS

The state government suspended Panchayat Development Officer (PDO) Praveen Kumar K P on Friday for attending the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh's (RSS) centenary celebration at Lingsugur, Raichur district, on October 12.

Panchayat Raj Commissioner Arundhati Chandrashekhar issued the order suspending Kumar for his "conduct unbecoming of a government servant".

This comes after Panchayat Raj Minister Priyank Kharge urged Chief Minister Siddaramaiah to initiate disciplinary action against government employees who have links with the RSS. Priyank cited the Karnataka Civil Services (Conduct) Rules, which bar government employees from holding membership in or attending events of organisations having political leanings.

Kumar, the PDO of Rodalabanda Gram Panchayat in Sirwar taluk, was deputed as the personal assistant of Lingsugur BJP MLA Manappa Vajjal.

The Raichur Zilla Panchayat was asked to submit a report verifying whether or not Kumar had attended the RSS' event in the Ganavesha (uniform) wielding a cane. The report confirmed this, leading to his suspension.

The Opposition BJP described Kumar's suspension as "an assault on patriotic sentiments" by misusing government machinery.

"This is nothing but a perverse and anti-Hindu mindset of the Congress, driven by malice," BJP state president B Y Vijayendra said. "This vindictive suspension must be immediately revoked with an apology, or else an appropriate response will be given through Constitutional means within the democratic system to counter this divisive politics," he said.

DGP Saleem proposed curbs

Director-General of Police M A Saleem wrote to the government on October 15 seeking curbs on the activities of private organisations in public places, which became the basis for the Cabinet to decide on issuing a fresh order, it has emerged.

In his letter, Saleem stated that several private organisations were using public places, government properties, playgrounds and roads for activities, publicity, training, meetings and festivals without permission or intimation.

"This amounts to trespassing and causes a serious threat to public safety," Saleem stated.

The government, in its impending order, may empower itself to deny permission for any activity that may "cause public inconvenience or hampers the original purpose of the organisation that owns the premises."

Contractors threaten strike if dues not cleared in a month

Rs 33,000 cr due from eight departments, says assn prez

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Karnataka State Contractors' Association (KSCA) on Friday served an ultimatum to the state government to clear their arrears, up to Rs 33,000 crore, within a month, or else threatened to call a strike from December first week, which could potentially stall civil works in the state.

Speaking at a press conference here, KSCA president R Manjunath said: "Since this government came to power two-and-a-half years ago, we are demanding payment. We met the CM two to three times. They assure but haven't given money. They are paying only 10-15% of the payment. We will wait till November-end and after that will go on a strike and stop the work."

He said that they would write to the national-level Congress leadership, and even try meeting the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi.

In July 2021, the KSCA had written to PM Narendra Modi complaining that contractors were forced to pay a cut to ministers, elected representatives, and officials. This gave birth to the viral '40% commission' allegation, which was among the factors contributing to the saffron party's defeat in the 2023 Assembly polls.

According to Manjunath, there were Rs 52,000 crore dues when the Congress came to power in May 2023, and is currently around Rs 33,000 crore from eight departments.

"Except for the Public Works Department (PWD), no one is following seniority. The package tenders by the Urban Development Department in 10 city corporations are a grave injustice against medium and small contractors. Despite meeting with the minister, there hasn't been any use," he added.

Manjunath urged Siddaramaiah to abolish package tenders.

He conceded that the corruption had continued under the current regime too, but refused to disclose the exact percentage or number.

Arrears claimed by contractors

Rs 33,000 crore Overall dues	Rs 12,000 crore Major irrigation	Rs 9,000 crore PWD
Rs 3,600 crore RDPR	Rs 3,200 crore Minor Irrigation	Rs 2,000 crore UDD and Municipal administration
Rs 1,500 crore Housing	Rs 800 crore Labour	

Source: KSCA estimates

'Let them go to courts'

In response to allegations by the association, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah asked them to "go to the courts."

'20% commission'

However, the honorary president of the association Jagannath B Shegaji went beyond Association president R Manjunath's statement, and alleged that "70%" of the MLAs cutting across parties in the Kalyana Karnataka region were taking a commission of 20%.

"Officers are also taking money and MLAs cutting across parties are taking 20% of the money. We will take names in the letter. If they are taking 20% for tenders only, you can imagine how much they are taking for everything."

RSS to hold route march in Chittapur

KALABURAGI, DHNS

Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh workers are making all preparations to hold route march in the home constituency of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Minister Priyank Kharge in Chittapur on October 19.

Saffron flags along with huge cut-outs have been erected at important places on the main roads in Chittapur. RSS leaders said that a meeting will be held at the Bajaj Kalyana Mantapa premises in the town at 3 pm after which route march will be organised on the main streets of the town. An application has been submitted to the taluk administration seeking permission. The organisation leaders have paid necessary fees to Chittapur Town Municipal Council for installing banners and flags.

A banner on October 19 RSS route march erected in Chittapur of Kalaburagi district.

RSS leader Ashok Patil said that meetings have been held in many parts of the taluk to make necessary preparations for the procession and permission from the police officials is awaited.

"An application has been received from the RSS seeking permission to hold a route march in Chittapur town. The local police station has been asked to submit a report on the application. The decision regarding granting permission will be made based on the police report. Permission has not yet been given", Tahsildar Nagayya Hiremath said.

CM: Are Infosys people Bruhaspathis? Survey not restricted to BCs

MYSURU, DHNS

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said that Infosys co-founder N R Narayana Murthy and his wife and Rajya Sabha member Sudha Murty, who have refused to participate in the ongoing social and educational survey, may have wrong information that it is meant for backward class (BC) communities only.

"If they have such an opinion, it is wrong. I am making it very, very clear that this survey is not just meant for people from backward class communities," he said.

When asked if the reason for the refusal by prominent persons to provide their details would have any impact on the people, he said: "If they are from Infosys, are they Bruhaspathis (highly learned ones)? It is up to them."

"If they cannot understand what can be done? They may have the wrong information. There seems to be a misunderstanding," he said.

"We have told several times and given advertisements in this regard that this survey is not just for people from backward class communities. Just like the guarantee schemes, which are meant for people from all classes and castes, this survey is meant to know the socio-economic status of the entire seven crore population of Karnataka state, belonging to all communities," he clarified.

"The Central government will also do it. Will they not participate in it?" the chief minister sought to know.

Yatnal writes to CM, seeks ban on namaz on roads, govt premises

BENGALURU, DHNS

Bijapur City MLA Basanagouda Patil Yatnal urged Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Friday to ban namaz on roads, footpaths or government premises without prior permission.

In a letter to the chief minister on October 17, Yatnal, who was expelled from the BJP earlier this year, said: "We have seen people offering namaz on roads and government premises without obtaining due permission from the competent authorities. Such activities cause obstruction to vehicular and pedestrian movement, inconvenience to the public and endangering the pedestrians, thereby violating the citizens' fundamental right to free movement and safety guaranteed under articles 19 and 21 of the Constitution of India. There should not be any special provision to offer namaz in government offices or any other government aided institutions."

Yatnal's letter comes in the wake of the Cabinet's decision on Thursday to pass a government order that will prevent "trespassing" on public places by private institutions and organisations.

On October 4th, IT/BT Minister Priyank Kharge had written to the chief minister seeking a ban on the activities of the RSS on government premises.

Move to ban RSS unconstitutional: Santosh Hegde

DHARWAD, DHNS: "The Constitution grants the right to form associations. Hence, banning the RSS would be unconstitutional," said former Supreme Court judge Justice Santosh Hegde.

Responding to reporters' questions in Dharwad about the Congress government's reported move to ban the RSS, he said, "If the BJP comes to power, they will ban the Congress. This is just their political game."

Speaking at a convention of job aspirants agitation committee, Justice Hegde said, "There are many vacancies in departments, but the government is not filling them up. The funds set aside for the recruitment/appointments are being utilised for other purposes. The government should place in public domain the details about the number of vacancies, number of new posts created or posts abolished, every year."

The government claims that there' no money to fill vacancies. If that's the case then what did the government do with the funds earmarked for recruitments, he added.

CAUVERY THEERTHODBHAVA

Devotees gather in large numbers to witness the annual Theerthodbhava at Talacauvery near Bhagamandala in Kodagu district on Friday. As priests declared the holy emergence of River Cauvery at 1.44 pm, devotees erupted in chants of 'Ukki baa Cauveryamme'. Thousands took the ritual dip and offered prayers. DH PHOTO/RANGASWAMY

Govt has withdrawn my security: Chalavadi

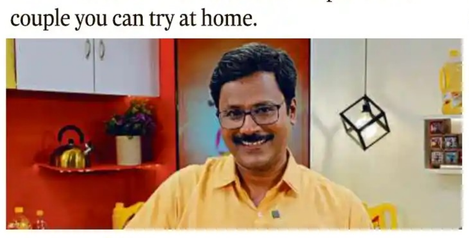
BENGALURU, DHNS: Leader of the Opposition in Legislative Council Chalavadi Narayanaswamy said Friday that the Congress government had withdrawn security personnel attached to him as per protocol.

"The government wants to intimidate me. It looks like I'm being targeted = by this government and (minister) Priyank Kharge is behind this," Narayanaswamy said.

He also pointed out that the government has not allotted an official residence to him, more than a year after he became the LoP. "If anything happens to me, the Kharge family and this government will be responsible," he said.

Delicacies for Diwali

Diwali is just around the corner. It's time to get some festival specials going in the kitchen. Chef Aadharsh Tatpati has a couple you can try at home.

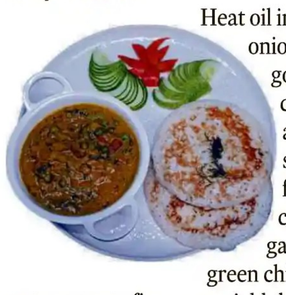


Batani Kurma

What you need:

- 250 gm of fresh green peas
- 1 potato (cut into fine pieces)
- ½ a fresh coconut (grated)
- 1 tbsp each of dhaniya powder, poppy seeds and kasoori methi
- 1 tsp of garam masala powder
- Cashew nuts – 10, green chillis - 5-6, two-inch ginger
- Garlic cloves - 8-10, dry grapes/raisins - 10-15
- Coriander leaves (chopped a little)
- 1 large onion (chopped finely)
- 1 tomato (chopped)
- ½ a tsp of turmeric
- 3 tbsps of oil

Preparation:



Heat oil in a pan, add onions and saute till golden brown. Add chopped tomato and saute till oil separates. Grind freshly-grated coconut, ginger, garlic, poppy seeds, green chillies and cashew nuts to a very fine paste. Add this paste to the pan, add turmeric, coriander powder and garam masala powder, mix well and stir-fry for 5-6 minutes. Add one glass of water and salt to taste, and mix well. Add fresh green peas and potato. Cover and cook until green peas and potato are done.

Add chopped coriander leaves, kasoori methi and dry grapes. Stir well and cook on medium flame for five minutes. You can top it with a tablespoon of ghee (optional) and Batani Kurma is ready.

Serve with puri, chapati or neer dosa.

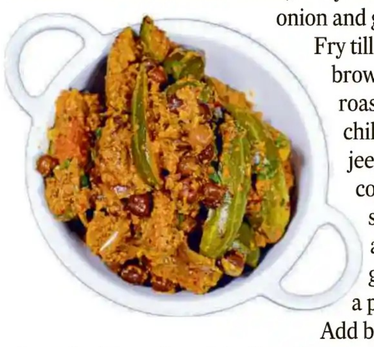
Kadle Manoli Sukka Masala (Mangalurean style)

What you need:

- 250 gm kadle or black chana (soaked overnight and boiled)
- 250 gm tondekai/tendli (half cooked)
- ½ a fresh coconut (grated)
- 1 onion - chopped
- 2 tbsps coconut oil
- ½ a teaspoon of turmeric
- 1 tsp jeera seeds
- 1 tbsp coriander seeds
- Byadagi dry chillis - 5-6
- Whole garlic cloves – 10
- 1 tsp of mustard seeds
- Curry leaves – 2 sprigs
- Chopped coriander leaves and salt to taste

Preparation:

Heat coconut oil and sunflower oil together in a kadai and add mustard seeds, curry leaves, onion and garlic. Fry till light brown. Dry roast red chillies, jeera, coriander seeds and grind to a powder.



Add black chana/kadale and tondekai/tendli to the fried mix in the kadai and stir fry. Now add the ground powder and turmeric, and stir fry for another five minutes on medium flame. Now add chopped coriander leaves and freshly-grated coconut, mix well, and cover and cook for two minutes.

Serve hot with neer dosa, puri or chapati.

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Brief convicts on consequences of jumping parole: HC to prison dept

AMBARISH B
BENGALURU, DHNS

The High Court of Karnataka has issued guidelines for prison authorities to follow while granting and effectuating parole release orders.

Justice Sachin Shankar Magadum directed the prison authorities to sensitise the convicts to the legal consequences and the severe penal consequences that would follow in case of non-compliance of parole conditions.

The court issued the guidelines after noticing that in several cases, convicts released on parole often remain unaware of the stringent consequences for failing to surrender within the prescribed time and that such ignorance frequently results in further criminal prosecution.

Mandatory briefing

"At the time of release on parole, the jail superintendent or the designated parole officer shall mandatorily brief every convict, in a language understood by the convict, regarding the conditions of release and the specific consequence of failure to surrender within the stipulated period, including the punishment prescribed under Section 58 of the Karnataka Prisons Amendment Act. A written undertaking shall be obtained from the convict acknowledging that he or she has understood the conditions of parole and the legal consequences of any breach thereof. A copy of the parole order along with the extract of Section 58 of the Act shall be provided to the convict and countersigned by the releasing officer," Justice Magadum said.

The court said that the Department of Prisons, in coordination with the Karnataka State Legal Services Authority has to prepare informative pamphlets or booklets in Kannada and English. These materials will summarise the rights, duties and liabilities of parolees, including the penal provisions for violating parole, and will be distributed to all prisons and made available to inmates and their families.

"The District Legal Services Authority shall ensure that every convict applying for parole is made aware of the conditions and potential consequences through legal literacy sessions conducted within the prison premises at regular intervals," the court said.

In the case at hand, the petitioner, a 47-year-old resident of Revoor, Bagalkot, was serving jail term in a Pocso case. She was granted 30-day parole on March 9, 2022, which was subsequently extended by 60 days. She was apprehended and brought back to custody after she failed to surrender as mandated.

She was convicted and sentenced to rigorous imprisonment for two years and fined fine Rs 1,000 under Section 58 of the Karnataka Prisons Amendment Act. Challenging this conviction, the petitioner contended that her failure to surrender due to serious health complications arising during Covid-19. However, the judge noted that the petitioner had not placed on record any credible or cogent material, either before the trial court or before the appellate court, to substantiate the contention about health grounds.

"No medical records, prescriptions, or any form of corroborative evidence were produced to establish that the petitioner was incapacitated or medically unfit to report back to the prison authorities on the due date," the court said, dismissing the petition.

He added that the prosecution's version that the petitioner deliberately failed to surrender upon expiry of the parole period stood firmly established.

Waterman ends life over unpaid wages; PDO suspended

CHAMARAJANAGAR, DHNS: Alleging mental harassment by Panchayat Development Officer (PDO) Ramegowda and Grama Panchayat president Roopa and her husband Mohan Kumar, waterman Chikoosa Nayaka reportedly ended his life by suicide, in front of the Panchayat office at Honganur, Chamarajanagar district, on Friday.

The death note left by the Chikkoosa Nayaka, who hanged himself, states, "I have been working as the waterman at Honganuru Grama Panchayat from 2016. I had told the PDO and the Panchayat president about quitting the job due to ill health and had asked them to settle my salary pending for 27 months. But, both did not respond. I had even appealed to the ZP CEO about the pending salary, but in vain. Whenever I asked for leave, they would mentally harass me. They would ask me to assign someone else for work. They insisted that I be in the office from 8 am to 6 pm. I am ending my life by suicide due to their harassment."

A case has been filed against GP president Roopa, her husband Mohan Kumar and PDO Ramegowda under SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act by Ramasamudra Police station. The government has suspended the PDO.

'Procure sarees for Anganwadi workers from handloom corpn'

BENGALURU, DHNS: Instruct the Woman and Child Development Department to procure sarees for Anganwadi workers from the Karnataka Handloom Development Corporation, Textiles Minister Shivanand Patil urged Chief Minister Siddaramaiah.

Pointing out that the Department of Woman and Child Development was intending to procure 2,79,668 sarees, two each for Anganwadi workers and helpers, Patil wrote, "The department is procuring these sarees under the ICDS scheme in accordance with the KTPP rules. If the order is given to the Karnataka Handloom Development Corporation, it will provide employment to weavers and help revive the body."

The minister also pointed out that sarees and other garments had been procured from the handloom corporation by government departments before as well.

"Keeping this in mind, I request you (CM) to direct the Woman and Child Development Department to procure sarees from the corporation," Patil said.

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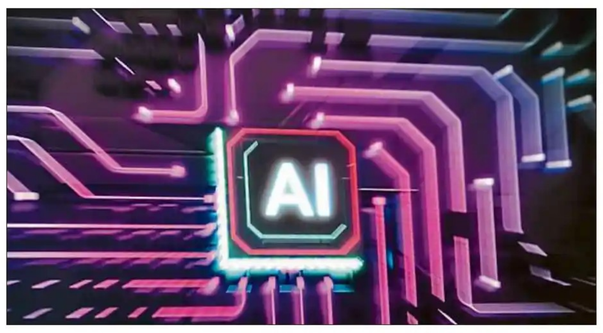
Now, AI-powered attendance system for govt teachers

School staff to instal a dedicated app on their mobile



BENGALURU, DHNS

Eager to leverage the capabilities of advanced technologies in administration, the Department of School Education and Literacy has decided to extend the use of the Artificial Intelligence (AI)-powered facial recognition attendance system to teachers at government schools and pre-university colleges.

Following reports of teachers' absence during school hours, the department decided to employ a foolproof system to monitor their attendance. "There have been complaints of teachers recording their attendance in the register, and then leaving to attend personal work during school hours," a source in the Department of School Education and Literacy said.

Attendance will be monitored through a dedicated app, which the department is already using for marking the attendance of students. The app-based attendance system was rolled out on an experimental basis at schools and colleges in Mandya, Haveri and Bengaluru South. "The system has been in place for the last three months, and the results have been encouraging. We will extend the system across the state this year itself," the source added.

Teachers will have to instal the app on their phones and mark the time of their entry and exit on it. Information on the app will be inspected by deputy directors of the respective districts.

Minister for School Education and Literacy Madhu Bangarappa said, "Teachers at government schools and colleges are not only the best, but they are also the most well-trained and well-paid teachers. We have decided to use the AI-powered attendance system to ensure their presence at schools so they can put their skills to use. Chief Minister Siddaramaiah had announced the adoption of the AI system in the 2025-26 budget."

But the Karnataka State Primary School Teachers' Association pointed to technical glitches on the app. Association president Chandrashekara Nuggli urged the department to convene a meeting with the teachers before extending the AI system across the state.

MADHU BANGARAPPA
Minister for School Education and Literacy

"Teachers at government schools and colleges are not only the best, but they are also the most well-trained and well-paid teachers.

Wildlife rescue: Minister directs officials to follow SOP

BENGALURU, DHNS: A day after a farmer was injured during an operation to rescue a tiger in Badagalapura, Saragur taluk in Mysuru district, Forest Minister Eshwar Khandre directed officials to follow the standard operating procedure (SOP) during wildlife rescue operations to avoid recurrence of such incidents.

Khandre said he has told the principal chief conservator of forests (Wildlife) to take steps in this regard. "Directions have been given to provide the necessary compensation and pay the hospital bills of the injured farmer," a statement from the minister's office said, adding that action should be taken against officials in case of lapses during the rescue operation.

SC upholds K'taka HC order in teacher recruitment case

ASHISH TRIPATHI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Supreme Court has dismissed appeals challenging a high court order that had referred the matter to the Karnataka State Administrative Tribunal for a decision in a controversy over treating married women as OBC candidates on the basis of income and caste certificate of their parents or husband.

The matter related to recruitment process initiated in 2022 to 15,000 posts of Graduate Primary Teachers for Classes 6-8 for 35 educational districts.

Dealing with appeals filed by Leelavathi and others, a bench of Justices J K Maheshwari and Vijay Bishnoi upheld the high court's decision and ruled that the KSAT is the proper forum to address the service-related grievances arising from the recruitment process.

"We are of the considered view that the division bench of the high court has rightly set aside the judgment passed by the single judge and had not committed any illegality in partly allowing the appeals by the first set of appellants and relegating the matter to the KSAT for adjudication," the bench said.

Justice Bishnoi, who authored the judgment for the bench said, the division bench of the high court had rightly held that their writ petitions before the high court are not maintainable.

Following written tests held in May 2022, a provisional select list was published on November 18, 2022.

However, several married women candidates who applied under the OBC category were excluded from the list because they submitted caste-cum-income certificates issued in their fathers' names instead of those of their husbands.

Their names were instead placed under the general merit list.

Aggrieved by the exclusion, some candidates approached the Karnataka High Court seeking inclusion in the OBC category.

On January 30, 2023, a single judge bench of the high court allowed their petitions, quashed the provisional select list, and directed the state authorities to treat such candidates as belonging to the OBC category as per the certificates attached to their applications.

Pursuant to the order, the government issued a fresh provisional select list on February 27, 2023, which led to the exclusion of 451 candidates who were originally selected in the earlier list.

The final select list was later published on March 8, 2023.

Those excluded challenged the new list before a division bench of the high court, which on October 12, 2023, set aside the single judge's order and directed that all issues be taken before KSAT.

Court permits Dharmasthala SIT to question complainant

MANGALURU/SHIVAMOGGA, DHNS: The Special Investigation Team (SIT) has received permission from the Belthangady court to question the complainant-witness for two days in connection with the ongoing investigation into the alleged mass burial case in Dharmasthala.

A senior SIT source told *DH* that the team had earlier sought court permission to interrogate the complainant-witness, who also happens to be the sole accused and complainant in the case.

"We had submitted an application to the court, and the magistrate, after examining our application and consulting legal opinions, has given permission," the source said.

"The complainant-witness plays a central role in the case. Our investigation has revealed several findings directly connected to the complainant-witness. Questioning him in detail will help us delve deeper into the case and verify the leads we have obtained so far," the source noted.

Meanwhile, a five -member team of the Special Investigation Team led by IPS officer Jitendra Kumar Dayama visited Central Prison at Sogane near Shivamogga on Friday and recorded the statements of S T Chinnaiah, the complainant-witness.

Speaking to *DH*, Central Prison Superintendent Ranganath said two SPs, a inspector, a videographer and two writers recorded the statements of the accused. The team is expected to record statements on Saturday also.

Kuruba community plans stir seeking ST tag

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Kuruba community in the state has decided to launch an agitation to draw the attention of the Centre for its demand of Scheduled Tribe tag.

The community leaders including former ministers K S Eshwarappa, H Vishwanath and others announced this during a news conference in Bengaluru on Friday. They said that the details about the agitation will be decided in the meeting convened at Vijayapura on October 24. "We would like to ask Chief Minister Siddaramaiah to clarify his stand on ST reservation for Kuruba Community," said Eshwarappa.

The leaders stated that no injustice would be caused by providing ST reservation for Kurubas. "Let the ST reservation be increased in line with other states in Karnataka too and reservation be provided for Kurubas under it. We have never asked to remove some other community and give reservation for us. What we are asking is not a new thing," said Eshwarappa.

They said that the Kuruba community was in distress. "After studying the condition of the community in the state, the government has recommended the Centre to consider it for ST reservation. We all staged series of protests under the leadership of Kaginele seer, but I was surprised to hear Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's statement saying he was not part of the protests," Eshwarappa said.

Meanwhile the leaders warned Siddaramaiah not to forget the contribution of Kuruba community in his elevation as chief minister. "When we invited Siddaramaiah for one such meeting in 2021 he did not come, will he come now? asked Eshwarappa.

He said that people who tried to touch RSS did not remain in power and warned Siddaramaiah to be careful. "Minister Priyank Kharge is doing this drama only to bring you down from power," he added.

Lokayukta searches Pilikula Biological Park in Mangaluru

MANGALURU, DHNS: The officials from the Karnataka Lokayukta, Mangaluru Division, conducted a surprise inspection at Pilikula Nisargadhama after obtaining a search warrant from the Lokayukta.

During the inspection, certain irregularities were reportedly detected in the administration of the Pilikula Development Authority.

Members of the public have been urged to report any instances of malpractice or corruption in units under the Pilikula complex — including the Biological Park, Guthu Mane, Manasa Water Park and Science Centre.

*Conditions apply. The prices stated above represent the MRP of the product (inclusive of all taxes). Discounts are offered on MRP only. No two offers can be clubbed together. The above offers are applicable exclusively on the purchase of a single unit, with one free unit provided per eligible purchases. Offers on select models until stocks last. Offers valid across India, except Kerala. Buy 1 unit of Endura Pro mixer grinder worth rupees 14275.00 and get 1 unit of Svachh Stainless steel Popular 5L cooker worth Rs 3120.00 free. Prestige® Logo is the registered trademark of TTK Prestige Limited in India. For detailed terms and conditions visit your nearest Prestige Xclusive/Dealer outlet.

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Outer Ring Road: Hennur Coco : Ph: 7204250679; **Tumkur Rd. 8th Mile T.Dasarahalli:** Ph: 9972541116; **Koramangala:** Ph: 9663515616, **Tumkur** : Ph: 9164853121; **Bull Temple Rd:** Ph: 26609012; **Malleswaram:** Ph: 9448282470; **Rt Nagar Main Rd:** Ph: 41698761; **Ganganagar Cbi Rd:** Ph: 43705914; **Wheeler Rd:** Ph: 25803080; **Kattriguppe Circle:** Ph: 40900685; **Vijayanagar:** Ph: 9739004750; **Hsr Bda Complex:** Ph: 25726991; **Marathahalli:** Ph: 42197088; **Sanjaynagar,** Ph: 41258300; **Banaswadi Ring Rd:** Ph: 41634115; **Jayanagar:** Ph: 9845066549; **J.P.Nagar:** Ph: 41122235; **Rajarajeshwaringr:** Ph: 28603540, 9008418800; **Kengeri Stl Town,** Ph: 28485296; **Rajajinagar:** Ph: 41731224; **B.T.M.Layout:** Ph: 40939168; **Sarjapura Rd:** Ph: 42038646; **Konankunte Cross:** Ph: 9845057728; **Nagharabhavi Bda Cmplx**: Ph: 9739004750; **Begur**: Ph: 8970366139; **Vidyaranayapura:** Ph: 9845518824; **Wilson Garden:** Ph:9480010720; **Brookefield:** Ph: 28541555; **Ramamurthynagar:** Ph: 08042049545; **Kr Puram:** Ph: 8861494277; **Cambridge Layout,** Ph: 42074468; **Kaggadaspura:** Ph: 7306666610; **Kammanahalli:** Ph:41606044; **Whitefield:** Ph: 40907273; **Chandapura:** Ph: 9036190725; **Dommasandra:** Ph: 9611423555; **Hesarghatta Road:** Ph: 28370400; **Uttarahalli:** Ph: 9986879095; **Anjananagr Magadi Rd:** Ph: 23281206; **Kadugodi:** Ph: 8123042234; **Hosur Rd Huskur Gate:** Ph: 9606406009; **Yelahanka Newtown:** Ph: 8668034376; **Jayamahal Ext,** Ph: 41616484; **Mahalakshmi Lyt:** Ph: 23572233; **Jpnagar 7th Phase, Puttenahalli :** Ph: 41465855; **Kumaraswamy Lyt:** Ph: 8618517716; **Chandra Lyt:** Ph: 9739004750; **Channasandra:** Ph: 9986369569; **Sheshadripuram :** Ph: 8711090976; **Kasturinagar:** Ph: 08049923166; **Attibele:** Ph: 9341221525; **Jigani:** Ph: 8762069852; **Sarjapura Town:** Ph: 9036373175; **Hosa Rd Junction:** Ph: 9845597099; **Mathikere:** Ph: 6366636592; **Basaveshwaranagar:** Ph: 9739591008; **Thalagatapura:** Ph: 9964116888; **Hegganahalli:** Ph: 28360289; **Gottigere:** Ph: 8431241099; **Ullal:** Ph: 9686646565; **Jayanagar 4th Block East Extension:** Ph: 9945446335; **Nelamangala:** Ph: 9632356627; **Kolar:** Ph: 9738882584; **Channapatna:** Ph: 9686661294; **Madhugiri:** Ph: 9611552805; **Gauribidanur:** Ph: 8317399465; **Gubbi: Ph:** 9035195120/8095459040; **Banshankari Stage 2, Bda Complex** : Ph: 49890679, 9740677740; **Vijayabank Colony, Bilekahalli:** Ph: 8970366139; **Whitefield:** Ph: 08040907273; **Malur:** Ph: 9845028859; **Kumbalagodu :** Ph: 9845014860; **Devanahalli:** Ph: 9845737576; **Thanisandra:** Ph: 9686340159; **Hulimavu:** Ph: 8904654433; **Singanayakanahalli:** Ph: 9151717779; **Anekal:** Ph: 8660070202; **Tiptur** , Ph: 9164688773; **Bhyadarahalli :** Ph: 9845982089; **Hennur Bande:** Ph: 9980097982; **Tc Palya Road** : Ph: 9148775224; **Chikkajaala**: Ph: 9036202892; **Mutthanallur**: Ph: 8970736606; **Madnayakhalli:** Ph: 9886230009; **Hoskote**: Ph: 9845028859; **Sira** : Ph: 8310660400. **For Franchisee Enquiry Contact: Ayush Kumar Sahu, Ph: 9993010283.**

Also Available At : Jayanagar: Sarathy, Ph: 41210047; Vishaals, Ph: 08022447285; Royal Mart, Ph: 8790311104; Anjana Superstores, Ph: 41301836; Kitchenmart, Ph: 26652885; Aravinda, Ph: 41301989;**Bankcolony:**Vardhaman Ind, Ph: 22428300;**Banashankari:**Varada Glass & Crky, Ph: 9980949316; Patel Agn, Ph: 26714285;Patel Ktchen Apl, Ph: 9079061706; Chamundi Ind, Ph: 26712633;**Bilekhalli:**Sree Pooja Ha, Ph: 9036919084; **Bommanahalli:**Sri Durga Ha, Ph: 9900674018;**Chamarjpet:**Vadirajstores, Ph: 41517646;**Devarachikkanahalli:**Sapna Ha, Ph: 9738732036;**Electronic City:**Dream Mart Hm, Ph: 9148934858;**Hosa Rd:**Maharaja Kw-9036400829;**Hosakota:**Dream Mart Hm-9964744480;**Isro Layout;**Bhumi Kitchen, Ph: 9916830850;**Jp Nagar:** Surya Kitchen World, Ph: 9449762988;**Kanakapura Rd:** Royal Mart, Ph: 28425777;**Padmanabnagar:**Royalmart, Ph: 9886088993;**Uthrahalli:**Royalmart, Ph: 26394114;Rme Super Market, Ph: 9964228208;**Mysore Road:**The Karnataka Metal Industry, Ph: 9449342727;**Ayyappanagar:**Top Mart Sm, Ph: 7204448111; **Babusapalya:**Karnataka Ha, Ph: 8105754544;**Basaveshwarnagar:**Bigday Hm, Ph: 9972517344; Mahaveer Ha, Ph: 9844173501; Modern Colln, Ph: 23583440;Aadhinath Kitchen Gal, Ph: 41220555;**Gayathri Ngr:**J.K.Steel, Ph: 23320853;**Giri Nagar:**Vidya Ent , Ph: 9449988650;Matahji Ha , Ph: 7019385120; **Bagalgunte:**Royal Mart, Ph: 9538000072;**Chandra Layout:**Rajguru Kw, Ph: 9513034351; Pavan Kw, Ph: 8618028319;**Ganganagar:**Salemindustries, Ph: 41284470;Patel Ind, Ph: 8050899296;**Hesargatta Main Rd:**Royal Mart, Ph: 28398200;**Horamavu:**Mamtha Ha, Ph: 8880050050;**Hrbr Layout:**Bhavani Ha, Ph: 9845916164;**Harlurur**: Vinayaka Ha, Ph: 7760531454:**Katriguppe:**Mk Metal Mart, Ph: 9035779199;**Kr Puram:**Srm Elect, Ph: 9845445748; Pooja Ele, Ph: 9738850503; **Boodhigere Rd:**New Royal Fresh, Ph: 9538038885; **Kamanhalli:**Ramdev Steel, Ph: 7259575732 ;Hm Traders, Ph: 9964797616;**Kasavanahalli:**Mathaji Ha, Ph: 8880796036;**Kunadanahalli:** New Prakash Ha, Ph: 7090444111; **Kengeri;**Falcon Hm, Ph: 7829999066;**Koramangala:**Sowbhagya Traders, Ph: 7337733887;**Kmr Swy Layout:**Patel Ha, Ph: 8951979665;**Laggere:**Top Mart, Ph: 9110246047;**Lnpura:**Arihanth Ent, Ph: 7899633338;**Malleshwaram:**Deviprasad Ha, Ph: 23564536;Bright Novelty, Ph: 23343505;**Mathikere:**M.Bhawarlals Inc, Ph: 41724740; Maharaja Agency, Ph: 41278050; **Kadugodi:**Little Wonder, Ph: 9961224224;**Madiwala:**Surya Ha, Ph: 9449635332;**Malleshpalya:**Bajrang Ha, Ph: 9449526463;New Bheru Ha, Ph: 9448680738;Ramdev Ha, Ph: 9035175860;Sri Bhagawathi Ha, Ph: 9590575427; Maa Ambe Ha, Ph: 8884198322; **Magadiroad:**Royal Mart, Ph: 23584498;**Annapornesh wari Nagar:**Deepak Ha, Ph: 9148912736;**M S Palya:**Royal Mart, Ph: 8147014079;**B Narayanpura:** Ph: Mart; Ph: 7676726487;**Rajajinagar:** R S Mart, Ph: 6363602929; Mahalakshmi Metal House, Ph: 23355994; Rathna Sales, Ph: 23375566; Dhanalakshmi Kitchen World, Ph: 41285801;Jayalakshmi Kw, Ph: 9844755146; Pooja Stl Cent, Ph: 23327014; **Rr Nagar:**Milan Ha, Ph: 28605619;Pavan Kg, Ph: 9739207043;**Tavarakere:**Mytri Mart Sm, Ph: 7996598838;**T C Palya:**Rhk Super Mkt, Ph: 9731668995; Big Day Sm, Ph: 8867604818; Karnataka Ha, Ph: 8105754544;**Tipsandra:**Pawar Ha, Ph: 9980517021;Milan Ha, Ph: 9986196375;Ramdev Ha, Ph: 7406901545;**Ulsoor:**Aishwaryapranam Ha, Ph: 9902788429;Pranam Steel Center, Ph: 9448053781;**Udaynagar:**Mother India-9036189765;**Venkatapura:**Pooja Kg-9900426176;**Vijayanagar:**Vijaylaxmi Kw, Ph: 9845022284; Mahendras, Ph: 23141126;Maruthi Ha, Ph: 8904689155;**Vidyarnapura:**Praksh Kw, Ph: 8050620877,Mahalakshmi Steel House, Ph: 9663375159;All Seasons Hm, Ph: 9946728736;**Whitefield:**Rolla Hm, Ph: 9148003448;Loyalcity, Ph: 7892565797;Royal Mart, Ph: 7079734574;**Yelahanka:**Royalmart, Ph: 41705760;Mutha Electricals, Ph: 22971920;Sai Kitchen World Ph: 9632811797; **Btm Layout**: Patel Agencies, Ph: 9482853401;**Tumkur:**N.R Metal Agency, Ph: 0816-2275003; Kavitha Kitchen Ware; Ph: 9538537166;Surya Metal Store, Ph: 9731351050;Tumkur Trade Centre, Ph: 9901432287; Dharshan Ha, Ph: 9632132567; Sudha Ha, Ph: 9964011253; **Gubbi**:Keerthi Gas Stove, Ph: 9686004169; **Tiptur**: Sri Sai Electronics, Ph: 8861432166;Srirama-Ent, Ph: 9880362018; Kumar And Kumar, Ph: 9141609900;**Turuvekere**:Sri Sai Electronics, Ph: 8861432166; **Pavgada:**Shivanagere Ha, Ph: 9880768236; Meenakshi Appl, Ph: 9880360326; **Sira:**Swamy Ent, Ph: 9741561491; Lakshmi Sreel, Ph: 9060434807; Mallikarjuna Ha, Ph: 8123206930; **Madhugiri**:Akshya Ha, Ph: 9141786066; Vinayaka Store, Ph: 9900219291; **Kunigal:**Karnataka Metal Stores, Ph: 9448550390; New Karnataka Steel Centre, Ph: 08132221548; Karnataka Ha, Ph: 8892197645; **Kgf**:Prakash Ha, Ph: 9845113454;**Bangarpet**: Kumar Stores, Ph: 9845935240; **Gauribidanur:**Sri Raju Ha, Ph: 9448249527; Dhighvijaya Elec, Ph: 7204757456;**Kanakapura:**Sri Kabbalamma Ha, Ph: 9880835508;**Kolar:**Reddy Ele, Ph: 9844472531;Rakesh Ele, Ph: 9880634555;Naveenprakash Ha, Ph: 9844997787;**Malur:**Srm Elec , Ph: 9845445748; Reddy Ele, Ph: 9844435121;**Vijayapura**: Rmcity, Ph: 9845164990;Reddy Ele, Ph: 9900336061;**Devanahalli:**New Sowmya Ele, Ph: 9141335210;**Chintamani:**Great India Ele, Ph: 9742963551;Lavanya Stores, Ph: 9242498294.

IIMB to offer two new UG programmes from next year

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Indian Institute of Management-Bangalore (IIMB) is all set to introduce two new courses that integrate analytical rigour with applied learning – BSc (Honours) in Economics with a minor in Data Science and BSc (Honours) in Data Science with a minor in Economics. IIMB will start offering the two new programmes from the 2026-27 academic year at its new campus in Jigani.

The two new programmes, hailed as a 'pioneering initiative' by the IIMB, blend aspects of Data Science, Economics and Business Studies. The programmes place an onus on analytical reasoning and professional readiness, which it aims to cultivate through internships, research and global exposure. "The total intake for the two courses will be 80 – 40 for each – the cohort structure enables focussed learning, personalised attention and close faculty interaction within IIMB's distinctive academic environment," read IIMB's statement to the press.

Aspirants can attempt the Undergraduate Admissions Test on December 13, 2025, which will be followed by interviews in January next. The results will be declared on February 28, 2026. Applicants to undergraduate programmes must be 20 years or younger as on August 1, 2026, and should have completed 12th or cleared an equivalent examination. Applicants must necessarily have secured a minimum of 60% in Mathematics in class ten, besides having studied Mathematics as a subject in class 12.

To apply now, please click: https://cdn.digialm.com/EForms/configuredHtml/1345/96226/Registration.html

Prospective applicants can find detailed information on eligibility, selection process, test format, and key dates in the FAQs section on the official IIMB Undergraduate Programmes website: https://ug.iimb.ac.in/faq/

With fall in market price, farmers turn to MSP centres

Urge govt to raise cap on quantity that can be sold

SHRINIDHI R
DHARWAD, DHNS

For many years, farmers in North Karnataka were not too keen on selling their crop to the government under the Minimum Support Price (MSP) procurement system. But with prices of green gram, black gram and soya plummeting on the market, farmers are lining up to sell their crop for the MSP.

Although the central government has set up MSP procurement centres in the region for the past four years, farmers were not all too enthusiastic to sell their crop there since the market price was always comparable with the MSP. However, the market price for many crops is markedly lower than the MSP this year, prompting farmers to make a beeline for the procurement centres.

Raining woes

The early onset of the monsoon this year resulted in farmers exceeding set targets for sowing. However, unrelenting rain in the region left acres upon acres of green gram fields damaged, denting the crop's quality. The drop in quality resulted in a proportional fall in the price – farmers were getting only between Rs 3,000 and Rs 5,000 per quintal of green gram. For black gram, the price is hovering around Rs 4,000 to Rs 5,000. However, traders appear wary of purchasing pulses since they are not sure about their quality.

The market price for many crops is markedly lower than the MSP this year, prompting farmers to make a beeline for the procurement centres. DH FILE PHOTO

At the MSP procurement centres, a quintal of green gram can fetch up to Rs 8,768, while the price for one quintal of black gram is Rs 7,800. Acceding to the farmers' demands, the centres have extended the deadline for registration and procurement. Farmers now have 80 days to register, as against 60 earlier, and 90 days for procurement, up from 80.

For green gram, 22 MSP procurement centres have been set up in Dharwad, while six have been opened for black gram and ten for soya. Each farmer can sell up to 15 quintals of green and black gram, while the cap is 20 quintals for soya.

Farmers are understandably upset with the cap on the quantity. "We have not received compensation for the crops we have lost to rain. The ceiling on the quantity we can sell is very low. The government should increase the cap, and besides speedy procurement, ensure timely payment," said Iranna Madivalar, a farmer from Uppinbetageri.

Green gram was sown across 97,406 hectares, as against the target of 84,665 hectares set by the Agriculture Department. However, heavy rain left crops across 78,384 hectares damaged. Black gram was sown across 16,276 hectares – the target was 8,755 hectares – but crops across 10,585 hectares were damaged owing to rain.

However, farmers have reaped a bumper soya harvest. Soya was sown across 41,882 hectares against a target of 34,000 hectares, and farmers are lining up to sell their crop at the MSP procurement centres where they are getting Rs 5,328 per quintal, while the price in the market is only Rs 3,000.

Karnataka State Co-Operative Marketing Federation manager Vinay Patil said that the farmers' demand to raise the cap on quantity would be relayed to the higher authorities. "They also want low-quality green gram to be accepted," said Patil.

Draft 'RSS law' dropped...

Cabinet, from Page 1

Apparently, it was brought before the Cabinet without following due process such as inter-departmental consultation.

Finally, the Cabinet decided to issue a fresh government order laying down regulations on the use of public places by private organisations, especially the RSS.

"We did not go for a law as it would have been a long haul," Panchayat Raj and IT/BT Minister Priyank Kharge said. "There are already enough laws and various departments have rules on the use of their properties."

Priyank said the GO will not name the RSS. "We are bringing a uniform set of rules for all organisations. We want to create a good atmosphere," he said.

He insisted the RSS should obtain permission for its events. "A few minutes of traffic disruption during the CM's convoy makes headlines. But was there permission for the RSS to take out route marches across Bengaluru? What is the need to wield canes if they are peace-loving people? Which religion preaches that?"

SC internal quota: HC bars...

Internal quota, From Page 1

The petitioners contended that the order makes arbitrary sub-classification among SC categories.

"Such irrational division results in hostile discrimination within SCs in Karnataka and violates the equality principle enshrined under Articles 14, 15(4) and 16 of the Constitution of India," the petitioners stated. They said the state had revised the roster points and instructed all the departments and authorities to start the recruitment process to the posts in the State Civil Services.

The petitioners claim to be belonging to certain nomadic communities who are most backward. They further claim to be inadequately represented and have been placed below the advanced homogeneous communities, placed at Group 'A' and Group 'B' of the order, by inserting a Group C along with the other heterogeneous communities. The petitioners stated that in any stretch the nomadic communities have no homogeneous nexus with the other communities in Group C.

According to the petitioners, the state government has grouped the most backward communities and less backward communities in one group, (Category-C) without any basis despite apparent differences in social backwardness.

"Those who are unequal cannot be treated by identical standards. The state must, therefore, resort to compensatory state action for the purpose of making communities who are factually unequal by way of giving preferential reservation. However, the states' own formula of internal reservation matrix again makes that those who are advanced will take most benefits of reservation and other measures and therefore, it has no effect and is against the spirit of equality of opportunity. Thus, the state has not followed the rational principle for differentiation," the petition said.

KARNATAKA STATE FINANCIAL CORPORATION

Branch Office: KSFC Bhavan, Hubli-Dharwad Road, Rayapur, DHARWAD-580 009. Phone B 0836-2322235
Web : www.ksfc.karnataka.gov.in E-mail : bmdwd.ksfc@karnataka.gov.in dwd.ksfc@karnataka.gov.in

SALE OF COMMERCIAL SHOPS, RESIDENTIAL BUILDING AND INDUSTRIAL SHED THROUGH e-AUCTION

Notification No: KSFC/BO/DWD/529/2025-26 **Dtd. 17th October, 2025**

I) The assets of the following M/s.S.S.V. Shelters Pvt. Ltd. (Commercial Complex) i.e.,**'HUBBALLI CENTER MALL'** taken over under Section 29 of the SFCs Act, 1951 are available for sale on 'as is where is ' basis through eauction.

Property Details: Commercial land situated at CTS No.4614B/2C/1A, Beside Sushruta Hospital, Hubballi-Dharwad BRTS Road, Prabathnagar, Vidyanagar, Hubballi and incomplete building thereon. The interested purchasers / buyers can bid each individual shop. The proportionate undivided share of the land will be given on purchase of each shop. The Shop / Premises Area available for sale in each floor of the property is as detailed below.

1. Lower Ground / Basement Floor : (Amount in Rs.)

Sl.No.	Shop Details	Built-up area in Sq.ft.	Reserved Price	EMD
1	Shop No.19	389.00	2,349,100.00	234,910.00
2	Shop No.10	389.00	2,349,100.00	234,910.00
3	Shop No.16	316.00	1,908,400.00	190,840.00
4	Shop No.02	396.00	2,391,350.00	239,135.00
5	Shop No.04	328.00	1,980,550.00	198,055.00
6	Shop No.9	389.00	2,349,100.00	234,910.00
7	Shop No.21	85.00	513,500.00	51,350.00
8	Shop No.22	85.00	513,500.00	51,350.00
9	Shop No.23	85.00	513,500.00	51,350.00
10	Shop No.24	85.00	513,500.00	51,350.00

2. Upper Ground Floor : (Amount in Rs.)

Sl.No.	Shop Details	Built-up area in Sq.ft.	Reserved Price	EMD
1	Shop No.12	330.40	2,623,995.00	262,399.00
2	Shop No.15	463.40	3,681,630.00	368,163.00
3	Shop No.16	232.40	1,845,945.00	184,594.00
4	Shop No.17	355.60	2,824,065.00	282,406.00
5	Shop No.18	364.00	2,891,610.00	289,161.00

3. First Floor : (Amount in Rs.)

Sl.No.	Shop Details	Built-up area in Sq.ft.	Reserved Price	EMD
1	Shop No.1A	532.00	2965200.00	296520.00
2	Shop No.1B	565.60	3153000.00	315300.00
3	Shop No.1C	497.00	2770200.00	277020.00
4	Shop No.4	394.80	2200800.00	220080.00
5	Shop No.7	336.00	1873200.00	187320.00
6	Shop No.8CB	332.40	1852800.00	185280.00
7	Shop No.8CA	224.00	1248600.00	124860.00
8	Shop No.8A	368.20	2052600.00	205260.00
9	Shop No.8B	368.20	2052600.00	205260.00
10	Shop No.12	341.60	1904400.00	190440.00
11	Shop No.20D	250.60	1396800.00	139680.00
12	Shop No.20C	487.20	2715600.00	271560.00
13	Shop No.20B	389.20	2169600.00	216960.00

4. Second Floor : (Amount in Rs.)

Sl.No.	Shop Details	Built-up area in Sq.ft.	Reserved Price	EMD
1	Shop No.3	155.40	577,600.00	57,760.00
2	Shop No.4	170.80	634,800.00	63,480.00
3	Shop No.5	170.80	634,800.00	63,480.00
4	Shop No.5B	113.40	421,600.00	42,160.00
5	Shop No.9	91.00	338,000.00	33,800.00
6	Shop No.9B	329.00	1,222,400.00	122,240.00
7	Shop No.10	177.80	660,800.00	66,080.00
8	Shop No.13	170.80	634,800.00	63,480.00
9	Shop No.14	169.40	629,600.00	62,960.00
10	Shop No.18	169.40	629,600.00	62,960.00
11	Shop No.19	169.40	629,600.00	62,960.00
12	Shop No.29	191.80	712,800.00	71,280.00
13	Shop No.30	159.60	593,200.00	59,320.00
14	Shop No.31	158.20	588,000.00	58,800.00
15	Shop No.31A	149.80	556,800.00	55,680.00
16	Shop No.33	215.60	801,200.00	80,120.00
17	Shop No.40	162.40	610,800.00	61,080.00
18	Shop No.42	189.00	702,400.00	70,240.00
19	Shop No.43	191.80	712,800.00	71,280.00
20	Shop No.48	177.80	660,800.00	66,080.00
21	Shop No.50	140.00	520,400.00	52,040.00
22	Shop No.54	159.60	593,200.00	59,320.00

4. Second Floor : (Amount in Rs.)

Sl.No.	Shop Details	Built-up area in Sq.ft.	Reserved Price	EMD
23	Shop No.55	159.60	593,200.00	59,320.00
24	Shop No.56	186.20	692,000.00	69,200.00
25	Shop No.58	107.80	400,400.00	40,040.00
26	Shop No.59	154.00	572,400.00	57,240.00
27	Shop No.60A	149.80	556,800.00	55,680.00

5. Third Floor : (Amount in Rs.)

Sl.No.	Shop Details	Built-up area in Sq.ft.	Reserved Price	EMD
1	Shop No.5B	113.40	389,980.00	38,998.00
2	Shop No.6	196.00	673,770.00	67,377.00
3	Shop No.10	177.80	611,240.00	61,124.00
4	Shop No.12	155.40	534,280.00	53,428.00
5	Shop No.17	169.40	582,380.00	58,238.00
6	Shop No.24	231.00	794,020.00	79,402.00
7	Shop No.25	163.80	563,140.00	56,314.00
8	Shop No.26	162.40	558,330.00	55,833.00
9	Shop No.27	162.40	558,330.00	55,833.00
10	Shop No.28	189.00	649,720.00	64,972.00
11	Shop No.29	191.80	659,340.00	65,934.00
12	Shop No.30	159.60	548,710.00	54,871.00
13	Shop No.34	194.60	668,960.00	66,896.00
14	Shop No.36	141.40	486,180.00	48,618.00
15	Shop No.37	212.80	731,490.00	73,149.00
16	Shop No.38	231.00	794,020.00	79,402.00
17	Shop No.39	163.80	563,140.00	56,314.00
18	Shop No.40	162.40	558,330.00	55,833.00
19	Shop No.41	162.40	558,330.00	55,833.00
20	Shop No.42	189.00	649,720.00	64,972.00
21	Shop No.43	191.80	659,340.00	65,934.00
22	Shop No.49	128.80	442,890.00	44,289.00
23	Shop No.51	210.00	721,870.00	72,187.00
24	Shop No.53	165.80	569,800.00	56,980.00
25	Shop No.54	159.60	548,710.00	54,871.00
26	Shop No.57	184.40	633,810.00	63,381.00
27	Shop No.59	154.00	529,470.00	52,947.00
28	Shop No.60	155.40	534,280.00	53,428.00
29	Shop No.60A	149.80	515,040.00	51,504.00

II) Gamanagatti Industrial Shed for Sale M/s. Arun Industries

The assets of the following **M/s. Arun Industries** taken over under Section 29 of the SFCs Act, 1951 are available for sale on 'as is where is ' basis through e-auction.

Industrial land measuring 465.00 sq.mtrs. and building thereon measuring 278.24 sq.mtrs. situated at Plot No.C-94, Sy. No. 208 (Part), KSSIDC Industrial Estate, Gamanagatti, Hubballi.

Reserved Price: Rs.95,46,000-00 EMD: Rs.9,54,600-00

III) Sale of Residential Building at Azad Park, Keshwapur, Hubballi under SARFAESIA

Notice is hereby given for the sale of residential building belonging to **Sri. A. Ramarao** described herein below which has been taken possession under the provisions of Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interests (SARFAESI) Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(4) read with rule 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 will be sold through "e-auction". The interested persons for the purchase of the following assets may participate in the bid through e-auction.

Shri A. Ramrao, Hubballi. Details of the property as under :

Land and 3 Floored Residential Building thereon Plot No.3 and 4A, situated at RS No.73/A3, Ward No.47, Azad Park, Kusgal Road, Keshwapur, Hubballi land measuring 2 Guntas 15.75 Annas (Plot No.3 measuring 1 gunta 15.75 Annas and Plot No.4A measuring 1 gunta) together with 5700 sq.ft building constructed for residential purpose and bounded on the East by: Road, West by: RS No.75, North by: Plot No.2 and South by: Plot No.48.

Reserved Price: 2,16,63,000-00 EMD: Rs.21,66,300-00

Terms and Conditions:

(1) The properties / shops will be sold on 'as is where is basis' (2)E-auction opening date and time is **17/11/2025 at 11.00 a.m.** and e-auction closing date is **21/11/2025 at 04.00 p.m.** (3) Last date and time for payment of EMD is 15/11/2025 at 4.00 p.m. (4) Property may be inspected on **29/10/2025 between 11.00 PM to 4.00 P.M.** (5) Any statutory dues such as taxes arrears / payable to HDMC, HESCOM, COMMERCIAL TAX DEPARTMENT, KSSIDC etc. and applicable GST on the properties shall be borne by the buyer. The buyer has to make his/her own enquiry on the statutory dues if any on the shops of his/her interest. (6) Any litigation of the property is subject to Hubballi Jurisdiction. (7) The sale of shops / property is subject to any present or future litigations. (8) KSFC has every right to accept or reject any bids without assigning any reason at any point of time. (9) In case of any ambiguities arising in this notification the decision of KSFC is final. (10) Promoters / guarantors / collateral security owners are requested to bring their prospective buyers for better price, above reserved price, and to participate in the E-auction. (11) E-auction will be held through website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** For other terms and conditions of e-auction please visit the said website. (12) For further information please contact Assistant General Manager on mobile **No.9900231967.**

SSV Shelters Location
Arun Industries Location
A Rama Rao Location

Place : Dharwad
Date : 17-10-2025

Sd/-
Authorised Officer
Assistant General Manager

LEAVING HIS MARK

Basavakalyan MLA Sharanu Salagar symbolically takes lashes from the barukolu-wielding protesters, wearing masks of CM Siddaramaiah and his deputy D K Shivakumar, during the BJP's shirtless agitation in the town on Friday, demanding suitable compensation for the crops lost on thousands of hectares due to floods in the district. DH PHOTO

GP prez among 2 held for kidnapping doc

BENGALURU, DHNS: The president of a gram panchayat and his associate have been arrested for kidnapping a Bengaluru-based doctor over a financial dispute. The incident was reported in July this year but came to light after the suspects went absconding.

Police identified the arrested as Appasab Janawad (55), president of the Honnur Gram Panchayat in Bagalkot district, and his associate Manjunath Rugi (28). Another suspect, Ishwar, is still at large.

According to police, the victim, a homoeopathy practitioner, received a phone call from an unknown number and was lured to meet the caller. When he reached, three men arrived in an SUV, forced him inside and took him to Bagalkot district, where he was confined for three days in a farmhouse owned by Janawad.

The kidnappers demanded a ransom of Rs 72 lakh from victim's family, who approached the police. Realising that a complaint had been filed, they released the doctor and fled.

Govt red-faced over Shakti...

Shakti scheme, from Page 1

As per a KSRTC source, the certificate shared by the chief minister was a draft copy that wasn't meant for the public.

In the recent past, the state government has also shared similar certificates from 'The Golden Book of World Records' and 'The International Book of Records'.

The BJP was quick to point out that in addition to grammatical and spelling errors in the certificate, the company had also been dissolved in 2025.

"The page is now being run from Chuna Mandi, Paharganj, Delhi — under the name, London Book of World Records...," BJP's National Information and Technology Department In-Charge Amit Malviya wrote on X.

KSRTC has since clarified that the London Book of World Records Limited has shared its incorporation certificate and is registered under the Companies Act of 2006 in the UK.

"For any world record for this kind, the company does not reach out to you. We have to reach out to them, and that is what we did. Similarly, we had reached out to various other world record organisations. We share the required data and the organisations then verify it before issuing the world record," the spokesperson said.

However, a quick scan of the official website of the London Book of World Records revealed a few inconsistencies, including a dubious phone number '1234-56789'. The other available contact on the website did not return *DH*'s calls. In addition to the office in New Delhi, the website claims to have branches in the US and the UK.

The website also has photos of other Indian politicians, such as Eknath Shinde, the Deputy Chief Minister of Maharashtra, who received a world record certificate.

Calling the BJP out on the online trolling, Reddy said that the KSRTC awards covered the period between 1997 and 2005.

"This includes the awards received during the BJP regime and the regime of their allies, the JD(S). So what are they suspecting? Are they doubting their own credibility? Find out if the awards received during your tenure are included in the record. It is not limited to our tenure only. I would suggest that they learn to read and comprehend before tweeting. Don't lose your dignity by magnifying a tweet you don't have context about," he said.

Aland 'vote chori' case: SIT inspects houses of BJP leader's...

Aland, from Page 1

The SIT team searched the houses of Guttedar's sons Harshanand Guttedar, a former zilla panchayat vice-president, and Santosh Guttedar at Gubbi Colony and Vasant Nagar, respectively, here.

The sleuths also searched the house of a chartered accountant Mallikarjun Mahatagol at Khuba Plot in Vivekanand Nagar.

A complaint had been lodged with the Chief Electoral Officer in February 2023 in connection with the anonymous applications to delete around 6,000 names from the voters' list in the constituency.

Aland MLA B R Patil had complained that fake Form-7s were used to delete the names of his supporters from the voters' list. A case had been registered in this regard at the Aland police station on the direction of the then election officer.

Top Congress leader Rahul Gandhi had recently held a press conference in Delhi and raised the issue, following which the state government formed the SIT.

◆ WEATHER ◆

Overview: Rainfall occurred at many places over South Interior and North Interior Karnataka and some places over Coastal Karnataka
Forecast Oct 18: Rainfall to occur at some places over the state.

INTERIOR NORTH

Stations	Max	Min	Rain
Belagavi	31.2	21.2	00
Bidar	30.2	18.5	00
Vijayapura	31.6	20.9	00
Dharwad	31.6	22	00
Haveri	31	23	00
Kalaburagi	33.8	22.4	00
Raichur	31.4	22	00
COASTAL			
Honnavar	34.1	25.1	00
Karwar	34.7	24.8	7.2
Shirali	NA	NA	NA
Mangaluru	33.8	23.5	20.4

INTERIOR SOUTH

Stations	Max	Min	Rain
Agumbe	30	19.9	18
Bengaluru	28.9	21.2	4.8
Ballari	NA	NA	NA
Chamarajanagar	NA	NA	NA
Chikkamagaluru	NA	NA	NA
Chitradurga	28.8	22.1	0.8
Davangere	30	20.5	00
Hassan	31.4	NA	17
Mysuru	29	21	00
Madikeri	NA	NA	NA
Kolar	27.6	20.2	7.2

OTHER STATIONS

New Delhi	32.9	18.4	00
Kolkata	33	23.4	00
Mumbai	35.9	25.5	00
Chennai	33.1	24.9	29
Pune	31.8	20.3	00
Hyderabad	31.1	21.4	00
Th'puram	29.8	24.7	05

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Banned and back: How green is your cracker?

The Supreme Court's ruling that relaxes the blanket ban on fireworks in Delhi and the National Capital Region (NCR), permitting the sale and use of green crackers from October 18 to 20, comes days ahead of Diwali. The court has prescribed restricted timings for the use of fireworks during the two days. Both the Centre and the Delhi government had sought a relaxation in the ban, which has existed for five years. The Court had imposed the ban amid concerns over a major health hazard in a city choking on polluted air. It said the relaxation was a temporary measure and based on a "balanced approach", considering conflicting interests – the rationale, it said, was to permit use in moderation, while not compromising on the environmental guardrails.

The idea of green crackers, introduced by the government, does not have a scientific grounding and has been propagated primarily to navigate environmental laws. Green firecrackers should not be seen as a safe alternative – the pollution they cause is slightly less than what conventional crackers bring, due to a decreased presence of constituent particulate matter (30% less) and heavy metals. But they still pollute at levels that are much higher than what the residents of the city, especially children, elderly persons, and those who have health issues, can tolerate. The Court had allowed the use of green crackers in 2018, but the Delhi government imposed a total ban two years later because it was not possible to distinguish the "green" crackers from the banned ones, as fakes flooded the market. Reports indicate this is happening even now.

The total firecracker ban in Delhi-NCR has a seasonal break. Environmental and health costs will be high

Governments should have taken steps to enforce the total ban effectively in the national capital, in the interest of public health and the environment. Instead, they have gone for a dubious intervention that has political interests at its centre. The safeguards, conditions, and precautions the Court has prescribed and the government has promised to enforce are likely to remain on paper. It is to be noted that the Court has itself acknowledged that enforcement was poor when the complete ban was in force. Partial bans are even more difficult to implement. The 'balanced approach' adopted in the matter is also on shaky ground, considering that crackers, in whatever form they are used, cause serious harm to the environment and are an issue concerning public health. Public interest lies on the side of a total ban and its effective and absolute enforcement.

A survey amid mistrust and hostility

The Karnataka State Commission for Women has raised a red flag over the discrimination, harassment, and unsafe working conditions faced by women enumerators who are involved in the ongoing Social and Educational Survey. Chairperson Nagalakshmi Choudhary's letter to the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) exposes an appalling breakdown of administrative responsibility. Reports of public abuse, punishingly long work hours, missing survey kits, and malfunctioning digital tools reveal how poorly this massive exercise is being managed. That women engaged in official duty should face verbal assault and humiliation is unacceptable. This is not civic frustration – it is criminal behaviour. Anyone obstructing or abusing an enumerator must be booked for preventing a government servant from performing her duty. Enumerators are merely implementing government instructions. Citizens are free to participate or decline, but no one has the right to mistreat or endanger them. A recent incident in Bengaluru, where a resident unlawfully confined a surveyor, is a reminder of the contempt ordinary workers face when the system fails to protect them.

At the heart of the problem is a malfunctioning online self-assessment platform that was expected to simplify the process. Instead, it has become a technological nightmare. Aadhaar authentication failures and other glitches have made the digital interface virtually unusable in many areas. Citizens have taken to social media to appeal to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and the Backward Classes Commission for remedial action, but problems persist. That such glitches cripple a major project in the IT capital of the country is an embarrassment and an indictment of those who are in charge of this exercise. Their failure to ensure a seamless rollout has eroded public confidence in the initiative and pushed frontline staff into unnecessary conflict. IT Minister Priyank Kharge must take personal responsibility to get the digital system back on track. A seamless online process would have dramatically improved coverage, as people could participate at their own convenience. This is a Rs 400-crore exercise, not an experiment. If the state government cannot ensure basic technological stability, the entire survey risks losing credibility.

Tech glitches and public abuse leave enumerators hassled. Their protection must not be compromised

The Women's Commission has also demanded shorter working hours and nearby postings for female staff – these are humane and entirely reasonable requests. Enumerators must not be treated as expendable foot soldiers; they are the face of the government before the people. Citizens must cooperate, and the government should fix the technology, protect the enumerators, and restore dignity to public service. The enumerators deserve protection, dignity, and empathy, not hostility.

REVISIONS AND ERASURES

On Bihar's border, democracy's missing names

In the state's border districts, high voter deletion patterns correspond to outcomes that favour the NDA

VARNA SRI RAMAN

At dawn on the Mechi floodplain, the border wakes with the day. Men push bicycles loaded with fodder towards Uttar Pradesh, and a schoolgirl in a blue skirt rehearses her civics lesson. Every household has a story about paperwork – ration cards, job cards, Aadhaar – but it is the smallest card that decides whether they count: the voter slip. In 2020, many arrived at the polling station to find their names had quietly disappeared.

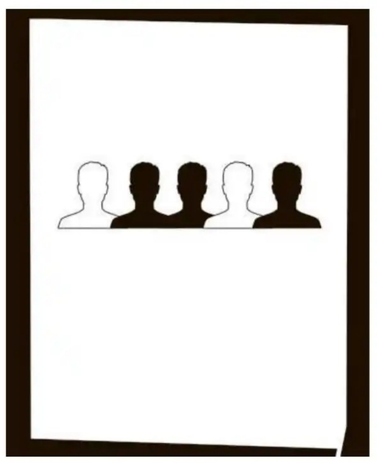
In July 2025, our small independent team began examining whether patterns in Bihar's ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, ahead of the November assembly election, echoed earlier trends. Using official data – 2019 voter-list deletions, 2020 booth-level election results, and the 2022 Bihar Caste Survey – we linked deletions to outcomes and estimated the community composition of removed voters through surname-caste-religion correlations.

Two strands now run in uneasy parallel. The first is our 2020 analysis, which showed that roughly 6.56 million names were deleted across 77,000 polling booths, with about 6,000 booths registering 250 or more deletions each. The second is the 2025 SIR, which ended on September 30 with 7.42 crore electors, down from 7.89 crore at the start. About 65 lakh names were removed, 21.5 lakh added, and 3.66 lakh marked ineligible. The Supreme Court has since asked the Election Commission to explain who those 3.66 lakh are and on what grounds they were excluded.

Both datasets trace the same geography of absence: Bihar's northern and western border belt – West Champaran, Siwan, Gopalganj, Saran, and Bhojpur – districts adjoining Uttar Pradesh that show the steepest and most persistent changes in the rolls. Here, deletions are not a drizzle but a monsoon burst. In 2020-21, booths along the UP border recorded about 127 deletions each, compared with 76 in interior Bihar – a 1.7-fold difference. Spatial tests confirm that clustering is no accident.

In one Siwan booth, 82% of those deleted were Extremely Backward Class or Scheduled Caste; near Bettiah in West Champaran, 70% were Muslim. These are not anomalies but repeating seams in the map, where the social composition of loss mirrors long-standing vulnerabilities.

Inside the 6,000 high-deletion booths, the profile shifts sharply: Muslims form about 18% of removals (13.5% in low-deletion areas), EBCs 18%, and SCs 5%. In roughly 2,300 of these booths, three-quarters or more of deletions come from Muslim, SC, or EBC households. In hamlets of Araria and Kishanganj, families speak of names struck off for minor mismatches – a surname change after marriage, an uncle



listed as dead though alive, a migrant son marked "shifted." The statistics translate into everyday erasure.

When the 2020 booth-level results were matched with deletion data, one pattern stood out: booths with higher deletions tended to report stronger NDA (National Democratic Alliance) victories. In booths with few deletions, the NDA won about 70%; in the most affected, nearly 80%. What changed was not the scale of victory but whether a booth flipped at all. The composition of deleted voters – disproportionately Muslim, SC, and EBC – suggests that what is presented as an administrative clean-up aligns uncannily with existing social divides.

The new roll inherits the old pattern. The net reduction of nearly 47 lakh names between June and September, the legal scrutiny of 3.66 lakh exclusions, and the recurrence of border-district volatility together signal that deletion remains concentrated, not random. With campaigning underway, a bureaucratic decision in September can determine a citizen's voice in November.

In a Katihar village, an elderly man clutches his faded slip: "I have voted since Indira Gandhi, but this time my name is gone." His bewilderment echoes across the border belt. A young teacher near Raxaul says her family voted in 2015 but found their names missing in 2020. In Sitamarhi, women who sign as "Devi" or "Kumari" to hide their caste appear repeatedly in deletion lists. For seasonal migrant families, six months away for work can mean permanent removal. The costs are uneven: for some, an inconvenience, for others disenfranchisement.

What the evidence adds up to

Three facts are clear.

Place matters: Deletions cluster along Bihar's northern and western borders. **Community matters:** In the state's worst-affected booths, Muslim, EBC, and SC voters form a disproportionate share of those removed. **Elections reflect these patterns:** High-deletion areas in 2020 corresponded to stronger NDA performance and lower Muslim representation in the rolls.

These observations do not assign motive. They do, however, set a standard for stewardship: when an administrative process reliably disadvantages certain communities in certain places, the burden of explanation rests with the State.

The findings reveal a continuum rather than a moment: each roll revision builds on the last, quietly defining who is seen and who is counted. What began as a technical exercise has become a mirror of inequalities in Bihar – of visibility, mobility, and trust. Restoring that trust requires transparency.

Three steps would help: publish booth-wise SIR statistics so independent verification is possible; audit random border blocks and reinstate any names wrongly deleted; and simplify re-enrolment for migrants, widows, and first-time women voters whose documents often carry small but fatal errors.

This analysis draws solely on official aggregates: 2019 voter-list deletions, 2020 Form 20 booth results, and the 2022 Bihar Caste Survey. Spatial patterns were identified by geo-referencing polling booths to border and interior districts. All data were aggregated; no personal identifiers were used.

The ballot is a quiet instrument. Its fairness depends on what happens long before the queue. In Bihar's border villages, the numbers ask us to look closer – and sooner.

(The writer is an award-winning social researcher)

RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE

It takes a village, and stories...

Our elders wove everyday moments into lessons of respect and wisdom

SHAZMAN SHARIFF

They say, "It takes a village to raise a child." That thought came to me recently as I was refilling the spice jars in the kitchen and accidentally knocked over some salt. The tiny white grains scattered on the counter seemed to look up at me, asking if I still remembered the story I had heard as a child.

When I was growing up, whenever a child spilt salt, the elders would gently instruct them to dispose of it respectfully -- not in the dustbin or sink, but out in the garden. And if the child refused, a mild warning would follow: "On Doomsday, the angels will ask you to pick up every grain of salt with your eyelashes."

As a child, I probably obeyed without questioning the logic behind those words. But what astounds me now is the ingenuity of our elders who came up with such ideas that beautifully teach the importance of respect—even for something as ordinary as salt. Back then, the lessons conveyed to children were not mere commands; they were nuggets of wisdom wrapped in stories that gave deep meaning to everyday actions.

Interesting narratives, it seems, were a part of the traditional parenting toolkit. Parents relied on them for the holistic training of children. For instance, when a child refused to eat food laid out on the spread, they would make the child understand why taking a few morsels of that unpopular dish is important, or else the food would feel hurt and might curse the child. The fear of being cursed by a food item worked wonders on innocent minds -- and even the least favourite dish was dutifully eaten. The idea ensured that any food somehow found its way to the stomach of even the tantrum-throwing young ones. Call it a clever trick if you will, but one must marvel at the beautiful way our elders instilled values without sounding patronising. A relative's words were an antidote for avarice, as she once told me that repeated counting would reduce the money. To this day, her words echo more crisply than the rustle of currency notes whenever I feel compelled to count them.

Of course, there were times when patience wore thin and gentle storytelling—sometimes eloquent--gave way to stern admonitions and harsh one-liners. The people of my generation are well aware of the popular proclamation, '*Bey adab, bad naseeb*' (best translated as the uncouth remains unblessed). This was a master stroke delivered with a certain wrath invited by those unmindful of the virtue of respect. The words wielded a great power; they could also acquire the form of a prophecy, a curse, and a notion of misfortune aimed at the one not enchanted by sweet stories.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Leave Lalbagh alone

I refer to '#saveLalbagh campaign gains momentum as govt proceeds with tunnel project' (Oct 17). The proposed Lalbagh tunnel project in Bengaluru has raised concerns about its potential impact on the 300-million-year-old Lalbagh Botanical Garden's ecosystem and ancient rock formations. Despite Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar's assurance that Lalbagh will remain unaffected, critics argue that the project should have undergone a comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment. The project may exacerbate traffic congestion, disrupt the water table, and damage the garden's biodiversity. With BJP's Tejasvi Surya strongly opposing the project and an online petition garnering support, the government should reconsider its decision. The planned provision of Rs 10 crore for Lalbagh development does not justify the potential harm to the city's green spaces and quality of life.

Precilla M, Bengaluru

Unreliable data

I refer to 'When the numbers don't add up: Karnataka's flawed survey' (Oct 17). The Karnataka Backward Classes Commission's survey, aimed at promoting social justice, has encountered several challenges related to its methodology, organisation, and institutional integrity. Unlike the decadal census, this survey is based on voluntary participation, which poses a significant obstacle to data collection, as enumerators cannot compel residents to share their information, affecting the accuracy of the survey. Additionally, the lack of standardised data collection methods, and opposition from certain communities could result in an incomplete or biased dataset. If these issues remain unresolved, they may undermine the reliability of the data intended to inform welfare and reservation policies.

K V Chandramouli, Mysuru

Baseless

Donald Trump's claim that Prime Minister Modi assured him India would stop importing Russian oil is both baseless and unnecessary. It reflects the tendency of political leaders to use misinformation for personal gain, even at the cost of international understanding. India's foreign policy decisions are guided by national interest and global balance, not external pressures or campaign statements. Such remarks create confusion and strain healthy diplomatic relations. World leaders must realise that responsible speech is a duty, not an option, to maintain trust between nations built over decades.

K R Gagan, Tumakuru

Our readers are welcome to email letters to: **letters@deccanherald.co.in** (only letters emailed – not handwritten – will be accepted). All letters must carry the sender's postal address and phone number.

SPEAK OUT

I got a call from the BJP in Delhi. I won't say who...What was I to do? Party loyalty... I said I prefer jail to becoming deputy CM. I could've become deputy CM then (in 2019)...

D K Shivakumar, Karnataka Deputy CM

The truth lies somewhere between the reasons and the stories.

Helen Fremont

TO BE PRECISE

IN PERSPECTIVE

Right to know faces systemic erosion

Institutional neglect and recent amendments dilute RTI, weakening the foundations of a transformative legislation

ANJALI BHARDWAJ AND AMRITA JOHRI

The Right to Information (RTI) law, one of the most transformative and empowering legislations enacted in independent India, came into existence in 2005 on the back of a strong grassroots movement and has initiated the vital task of redistributing power in a democratic framework. Estimates suggest that every year, around 60 lakh applications are filed under the law, making it the world's most extensively used transparency legislation.

The RTI Act has empowered people to expose failures in the delivery of essential services, claim their basic rights, and has served as a powerful instrument to hold the nation's highest authorities accountable for their performance, decisions, and conduct. Over the years, the law has been instrumental in unearthing major corruption scandals, including the electoral bonds scam, the Vyapam scam, and the Adarsh housing society scam.

It has been a crucial ally for movements seeking environmental justice, campaigns pressing for electoral reforms, human rights defenders, and even mothers seeking accountability for enforced disappearances in conflict zones. The law has enabled citizens to hold governments to account and speak truth to power. Perhaps it is for this reason that the legislation – and those who use it – now face an increasingly severe backlash.

The RTI Act, which topped global transparency rankings in 2011, has been regressively amended twice in the past six years – in 2019 and again in 2023. The first set of amendments dealt a severe blow to the autonomy of information commissions, handing the central government control over the tenure, salaries, and post-retirement benefits of all information commissioners.

Governments have long recognised the power of the transparency watchdogs to compel disclosure, even when public authorities seek to hide behind a veil of secrecy. Prominent examples include orders directing the disclosure of records related to the Prime Minister's educational qualifications, declaring national political parties as public authorities under the RTI Act, and releasing names of wilful loan defaulters.

Information commissions have, therefore, been in the eye of the storm even before the 2019 amendments. Since the BJP government came to power in May 2014, not a single commissioner has been appointed to the Central Information Commission (CIC) without citizens first approaching the courts. Several information commissions are functioning with inadequate strength, leading to massive backlogs and inordinate delays in the disposal of cases.

Amendments and other assaults

The passage of the Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Act in August 2023 dealt another blow to people's right to know. The law amended Section 8(1)(j) of the RTI Act to exempt all personal information from disclosure, effectively erasing the carefully balanced exception that previously existed. The DPDP amendment also deleted a crucial proviso in the law, that "information which cannot be denied to Parliament or a State Legislature shall not be denied to any person." The amended provisions could be invoked to block the release of details such as the names of loan defaulters, voter lists, identities of officials involved in key decisions, and even the names of contractors executing public works – all on the pretext of protecting "personal information".

A fundamental prerequisite for the effective functioning of the Act is that data be collected in a timely and accurate manner. However, in recent years, the government has claimed that it does not have data on several key issues, including the number of deaths due to lack of oxygen during COVID-19, reasons for farmer suicides, and details of electronic surveillance it authorised. It has also shielded itself from public scrutiny by asserting that instruments like PM CARES do not fall within the ambit of the RTI Act.

The users of the law have also not been spared – over 100 RTI activists were killed during the last 20 years. Thousands have been assaulted, threatened, and slapped with false cases. The Whistleblowers Protection Act, passed in 2014, remains confined to the statute books as the Central government has failed to formulate rules to operationalise it. Without a robust mechanism to protect them, attacks on RTI users and whistleblowers continue unabated.

As India marks two decades of the transparency law, the need to defend and reinvigorate the legislation has never been greater. The right to information is not merely a legal entitlement – it is the foundation of democratic accountability. Efforts to weaken it strike at the heart of participatory governance and the citizens' right to question those in power. The way forward lies in collectively striving to strengthen the sunshine law.

(The writers are transparency activists associated with Satark Nagrik Sangathan and the National Campaign for People's Right to Information)

Power Play 2025: One more try to fix the grid

AJITH ATHRADY
DH NEWS SERVICE

With electricity distribution companies (discoms) burdened by losses exceeding Rs 6.9 lakh crore and political parties continuing to dole out power subsidies and freebies, the Centre has unveiled new reforms to make the sector more commercially viable, attract private participation, and ensure affordable and reliable electricity supply for all.

The Union Ministry of Power has recently released the draft Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2025, which seeks to build a financially sustainable power system while supporting a smooth and equitable energy transition. This is the latest attempt to update the 2003 Act, which was last amended in 2007.

Empowering regulators

The Bill seeks to empower State Electricity Regulatory Commissions to revise tariffs suo motu, even if utilities delay filing petitions. This will end chronic delays in tariff updates that have long weakened discom finances. The Bill mandates that revised tariffs take effect annually from April 1, ensuring timely adjustments based on actual costs.

"The Bill does not say freebies should end," clarifies a senior power ministry official. "It simply ensures subsidies are funded transparently. The states will directly pay the subsidy amount to discoms to cover the cost of free or concessional electricity, keeping utilities viable without inflating commercial tariffs."

Currently, political commitments to provide free electricity often lead to under-recoveries, forcing discoms to rely on cross-subsidies or borrowings. The new framework aims to shift the fiscal burden of subsidies squarely onto state budgets.

Phasing out cross-subsidies

The draft bill proposes to phase out cross-subsidies within five years, a move likely to spark debate between the Centre and states. At present, industrial and commercial users are charged up to 30% above supply cost to fund cheaper electricity for households and farmers.

The ministry argues this system distorts pricing and undermines competitiveness. "Cross-subsidy reduces investment appetite in the sector," says another ministry official. "It's time tariffs reflected true costs."

The officials say this will reduce logistics costs, improve efficiency, and strengthen India's global competitiveness, especially for MSMEs hit by high tariffs.

A 2006 plan to reduce cross-subsidies below 20% by 2022 never materialised. The new Bill seeks to create a predictable, transparent tariff regime.

Opening up distribution

The proposed legislation seeks to allow multiple discoms to operate within the same area using a shared distribution network. Currently, each licensee must maintain separate infrastructure, leading to duplication and high costs. The proposed model would let new entrants use existing networks, increasing competition and ending state-run monopolies.

"The draft Bill allows public sector discoms to continue while permitting private companies to use the same network," says Shailendra Dubey, chairman of the All-India Power Engineers' Federation (AIPEF), adding: "This effectively paves the way for privatisation of the entire distribution sector."

The ministry counters that competition will enhance efficiency, reduce procurement costs, and benefit consumers through lower tariffs.

The Bill also proposes that the state commissions may exempt the distribution licensees from the Universal Service Obligation for consumers eligible for Open Access.

Resistance from states

"India has transformed from a power-deficient to a power-sufficient nation," says Union Power Minister Manohar Lal Khattar. "A modern, financially viable power sector is critical to achieving Viksit Bharat by 2047."

The Bill also proposes setting up an Electricity Council, chaired by the Union power minister, to facilitate consultation between the Centre and states.

But the states, especially the ones ruled by the non-NDA parties, have already started opposing the move. Kerala's electricity minister, K Krishnankutty, has warned that removing cross-subsidies could weaken public utilities and hurt vulnerable consumers dependent on free power.

The AIPEF and several employee unions have also criticised the draft, saying it favours privatisation over strengthening public utilities.

The ministry insists reforms are essential to attract investment, ensure efficient power procurement, and make electricity affordable and sustainable. While the Bill promises lower tariffs, better service, and cleaner energy, its success will depend on cooperation from states and their willingness to loosen their grip on politically sensitive subsidies.

ELECTRICITY ACT: ENDLESS EDITS

The Electricity Act, 2003, was enacted to liberalise the power sector

The Electricity (Amendment) Act 2003 made certain changes to the principal Act

The Electricity (Amendment) Act, 2007, codified penalties for electricity theft, introduced cross-subsidy

The Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2014, was introduced in the Lok Sabha, proposing multiple supply licensees, tariffs based on market principles

New draft Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2018, was circulated but lapsed with the 16th Lok Sabha's dissolution in 2019

Revised draft Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2020, added payment security, but the states opposed selection of regulators by the Centre

Revised Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2021, drew criticism from chief ministers for undermining federalism

New Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2022, was introduced in the LS, but the states opposed centralisation, lapsed with the dissolution of the 17th LS in 2024

October 9, 2025: New draft Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2025, released for public consultation

THE DRAFT ELECTRICITY (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2025

With the losses of Discoms exceeding **Rs 6.9 lakh crore,** the draft Bill aims to **enhance sustainability, transparency, private investment and competition, and ensure cost-reflective pricing**

THE DRAFT BILL SEEKS TO

- Set up an Electricity Council for Centre-State coor dination
- Empower the SERCs to determine tariffs suo motu (new rates to apply annually from April 1).
- Phase out cross-subsidies for manufacturing enterprises, railways, and metro railways within five years.
- Continue with state subsidies via advance payments for select consumer groups
- Introduce nationwide uniform service standards to ensure a reliable, quality power supply
- Make a framework for shared use of distribution networks to curb duplication, reduce costs, and end state monopoly
- Authorise CERC to introduce market-based mechanisms to boost renewable investment and competition
- Grant Universal Service Obligation exemptions for consumers eligible for open access, increasing flexibility for providers and consumers
- Set captive generation rules to ensure stability, transparency, and cleaner industrial energy use.
- Make non-fossil energy obligations enforceable.
- Set a 120-day limit for the resolution of adjudicatory matters

CONCERNS

The states, ruled by non-NDA parties, fear that the Bill will undermine federalism and threaten the state-run electricity companies.

Employees of government-owned companies fear that the Bill will lead to the privatisation of the state-run companies and job loss.

COMPILED BY AJITH ATHRADY, DHNS

A blueprint for India's energy future

DISHA AGARWAL &
PRATEEK AGGARWAL

India's power sector has come a long way since the landmark Electricity Act, 2003, was enacted. It has simultaneously improved access to electricity, addressed energy security concerns, and laid the foundation for the country's clean energy transition. The draft Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2025, aspires to build a power sector that is financially resilient, environmentally sustainable, and capable of supporting globally competitive industries. Here's how its intent can be turned into action.

First, the newly proposed Electricity Council must be empowered to truly align the Centre and the states. Establishing such a body is a bold and welcome step. Past attempts to amend the Electricity Act faltered largely due to limited political alignment on reforms. The council will play an advisory role, and its success will hinge on how its composition, functions, and mandate are defined once the act is enforced. Its design and secretariat functions must ensure a strong federal consultative process, enhance policy clarity, minimise overlaps between agencies, and foster trust among the institutions that govern and implement reforms.

Second, phasing in the proposed exemption from the universal service obligation can boost competition without disruption. The proposed amendment allows power distribution companies (discoms) to exit their supply obligation for large consumers (above 1 MW), enabling them to easily source power directly from other suppliers like private generators, renewable energy producers. This could unlock further demand for round-the-clock clean energy and improve efficiency. Yet, a transitory period of about three years could help both discoms and consumers build confidence in the delivery and cost-benefits of alternate supply models. During this period, the Act should guide State Electricity Regulatory Commissions (SERCs) to define preconditions for interested consumers, including opt-out durations and compensatory mechanisms for discoms to maintain supply and network reliability for consumers to fall back on grid supply in case of contingencies.

Third, the Act should mandate the Government of India to notify a National Renewable Energy Policy (NREP). India is already adding ₹30-35 GW of renewable energy capacity every year. It must at least double this pace urgently to meet the rising electricity demand affordably. But the lack of a comprehensive forward-looking policy framework is holding us back. A statutory NREP could advance clean energy as a foundation for Viksit Bharat. It must integrate renewable generation, storage, manufacturing, and workforce development under one framework, linking deployment goals with domestic value creation and green jobs. Anchoring such a policy in law would signal commitment and strengthen investor confidence in India's clean-energy build-out. It would also synchronise central and state actions on transmission, storage, and market design. This is critical, given recent shortfalls in grid expansion. The Ministry of Power, along with the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, should be responsible for shaping and coordinating the implementation of such an NREP.

India's electricity law shaped two decades of growth; its renewal must now power the next, and cleanly. The 2025 Bill can be that turning point—if ambition is matched by design, cooperation, and trust. True reform lies not in the letter of a law but in actions that it enables, when policy intent turns into public benefit.

[Disha Agarwal is Senior Programme Lead, and Prateek Aggarwal is Programme Lead at the Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW). Views are personal.]

SCIENCE & ENVIRONMENT

Decoding the Nobel winner: Peripheral immune tolerance

The discovery of Tregs has opened a thrilling new frontier in therapeutics, writes Arun Panchapakesan

We now know that T cells, a critical component of the immune system, mature in the thymus. It is here that they learn a crucial lesson: the thymus acts as a quality control centre, allowing T cells that recognise foreign pathogens to survive while eliminating those that would attack the body's own tissues. This process of weeding out self-reactive T cells is termed 'central tolerance'.

While studying this process in the late 1960s and 1970s, scientists observed something peculiar: Removing the thymus in newborn mice not only weakened their ability to fight infections but, paradoxically, often led to autoimmune diseases, in which the body's own T cells attack its tissues.

The timing of the removal, however, produced a dramatic difference. Removing the thymus on day 3 after birth led to severe autoimmunity, whereas removal on day 7 largely protected the mice from it. This paradox suggested that something crucial must happen in the thymus between days 3 and 7 to prevent T cells from attacking the body's own tissues. The question was: what?

Although unknown at the time, we now know the thymus is not foolproof. Some self-reactive T cells inevitably escape into the bloodstream. Yet, they usually do not cause harm. The reason is a second line of defence known as peripheral tolerance—the very process those newborn mice were developing between days 3 and 7. The discovery of this process and the cells responsible for it earned Shimon Sakaguchi, Mary Brunkow, and Fred Ramsdell the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine this year.

At the heart of peripheral tolerance is a specialised class of T cells, regulatory T cells (Tregs), which are also generated in the thymus. Tregs actively suppress immune responses directed against the body's own tissues. In mice, their development begins after day 3, explaining why removing the thymus on day 7 was not catastrophic: by then, enough Tregs had formed to keep the escaped self-reactive T cells in check.

Mary E. Brunkow and Fred Ramsdell of the United States and Japan's Shimon Sakaguchi won the Nobel Prize in Medicine for their research into how the human immune system is kept in check. AFP

Tregs achieve this through several specialised mechanisms. Normally, when a T cell recognises its target, it rapidly divides and releases chemical signals to recruit other immune cells, such as B cells and macrophages. Tregs intervene to prevent this. For instance, they display a surface protein called CD25, which acts like a sponge, soaking up an essential growth signal (IL-2) that other T cells need to multiply. By capturing this signal, Tregs starve nearby T cells of the stimulus required for proliferation. Furthermore, Tregs release calming molecules like IL-10 and TGF- , which directly suppress the activation of other immune cells and help restore balance once a threat has passed.

The CD25 molecule was key to Shimon Sakaguchi's groundbreaking identification of Tregs in 1995. At Kyoto University, he showed that removing CD25-carrying T cells from healthy mice caused them to develop autoimmune diseases rapidly. When these same cells were reintroduced, the disease was suppressed, conclusively demonstrating that Tregs are essential for immune control.

This discovery raised a new question: how are Treg cells formed in the first place?

The answer emerged from the work of Mary Brunkow and Fred Ramsdell. They were studying a mysterious inherited disease in mice that caused severe immune activation and early death. Their research pinpointed a gene called FOXP3, which produces a protein that acts as a master regulator of immune balance. Mutations in this gene caused a complete loss of immune control, resulting in rampant autoimmunity. Similar mutations were later found in children with IPEX syndrome, a rare and severe autoimmune disorder, confirming the gene's crucial role in humans.

Sakaguchi later showed that the FOXP3 protein acts as the master switch for Treg development and function, linking his earlier discovery of CD25 T cells to the genetic mechanism that gives them their suppressive power.

Today, we know Tregs do much more than maintain peripheral tolerance. They help control inflammation, prevent excessive tissue damage during infections, support wound healing, and influence metabolism. Consequently, Treg dysregulation is implicated in a range of diseases, from autoimmune conditions like type 1 diabetes and multiple sclerosis to cancers and chronic infections where the immune response is insufficient.

The discovery of Tregs has not only rewritten textbooks but also opened a thrilling new frontier in therapeutics. Scientists are now actively developing ways to harness the power of these cells. In one approach, they are creating therapies that boost the number or function of Tregs to treat autoimmune diseases and prevent organ transplant rejection.

In a seemingly opposite but equally promising strategy, they are developing drugs that temporarily inhibit Treg function within tumours, "releasing the brakes" on the immune system to help the body's own T cells attack cancer. This dual potential—to either suppress or unleash immunity on demand—highlights Tregs as a master control switch for human health.

These insights underscore the monumental importance of the Treg discovery. This year's Nobel Prize, therefore, recognises the identification of a fundamental principle of the immune system, and perhaps of life itself: that restraint is as valuable as aggression.

(The writer is an assistant professor of molecular biology at a Chennai-based research centre)

DID YOU KNOW?

When a crater goes missing in Australia

In the deserts of southern Australia, scientists have been captivated by tiny, shimmering glass fragments scattered across the vast, arid landscape. Formed under extreme heat and pressure, these delicate shards have puzzled researchers for decades, as they are neither volcanic in origin nor human-made.

Recent geochemical and isotopic studies reveal that the fragments are evidence of a massive asteroid impact that struck Earth millions of years ago. The mystery deepens because the crater such a catastrophic collision would have produced remains undiscovered—possibly buried or eroded by time. These glassy remnants, now identified as a new type of tektite called ananguites, act as time capsules, preserving clues about Earth's violent geological and extraterrestrial past.

"What makes the discovery even more intriguing is that, although the impact must have been immense, scientists have yet to locate the crater. Understanding when and how often large asteroids have struck Earth also helps assess the risk of future impacts—an essential aspect of planetary defence.

"While the Australasian tektites formed about 780,000 years ago and are spread across half the globe, these tektites are much older, and their discovery suggests a previously unrecognised giant impact."

Tektites are natural glass fragments created when a high-energy asteroid impact melts Earth's surface rock, ejecting molten debris across vast distances. Traditionally, tektites have been found in specific regions and linked to known impact events. However, the newly discovered glass fragments from southern Australia stand apart.

Researchers analysing thousands of samples stored at the South Australian Museum identified 417 pieces that did not match the chemical profile of known tektites. Detailed analysis conducted in France confirmed that at least six of these fragments shared a chemical composition with rare samples first discovered decades ago.

"These glasses are unique to Australia and record an ancient impact event we didn't even know about," explained Fred Jourdan, a geochemist at Curtin University.

The study, part of a larger research project led by Emeritus Professor Pierre Rochette of Aix-Marseille University, underscores both the destructive power of past impacts and the importance of studying them.

The full research paper, "A new tektite strewn field in Australia ejected from a volcanic arc impact crater 11 Myr ago," is published in Earth and Planetary Science Letters.

- Surendra Pai

BIHAR VISIT: Home minister says it's not his decision whether JD(U) leader will occupy top post

Shah meets Nitish, sidesteps CM face question

ABHAY KUMAR
PATNA

Union Home Minister Amit Shah met JD(U) chief and Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar at his residence in Patna on Friday, but remained non-committal on declaring Nitish as the NDA's chief ministerial candidate.

"Who am I to decide who will be the chief minister of Bihar? There are many parties in the NDA. It is for the elected legislators to decide," Shah said at a media event when asked if Nitish would return as CM if the NDA retained power.

"We are contesting the election under Nitish's leadership. We have full trust in him. So do the people of Bihar," said Shah, even as Nitish is reportedly upset over not being named the CM face by either Prime Minister Narendra Modi or Shah himself.

Until two days ago, Nitish was also unhappy with the seat-sharing formula, which has the JD(U) and BJP contesting 101 seats each. This is the first time in two decades that both parties are contesting an equal number of seats — unlike previous elections, where the JD(U), asserting its 'big brother' status, fielded more candidates.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah with Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar in Patna on Friday. PTI

BIHAR VOTES

The BJP, having meticulously stitched its alliance within the NDA and addressed the concerns of junior allies like Upendra Kushwaha and Jitan Ram Manjhi, made efforts on Friday to placate Nitish as well.

On Friday, Shah visited Nitish Kumar's residence for a 45-minute meeting. While the details of their conversation were not immediately known, NDA leaders described it as a "courtesy call".

MEASURED SUPPORT

- Shah expresses 'full trust' in Nitish's leadership
- JD(U) leader reportedly upset over not being declared NDA's CM face
- Nitish's concerns over seats to LJP(R) reportedly resolved

Sources in the ruling alliance acknowledged that Nitish's concerns over a few JD(U) seats being allocated to Chirag Paswan's LJP(R) were also discussed and "settled through talks between the two".

All in the family

NETAS SECURE TICKETS FOR THEIR RELATIVES

RJD
- **Tejashwi Yadav** s/o Lalu Yadav (in pic)
- **Karishma Rai,** granddaughter, former Bihar CM Daroga Rai
- **Shreyasi Singh**, d/o former Union Minister Digvijay Singh

Janshakti Janata Dal
- **Tej Pratap Yadav**, s/o Lalu Yadav

HAM
- **Deepa Manjhi**, former CM Jitan Ram Manjhi's (in pic) daughter-in-law
- **Prafulla Manjhi**, Manjhi's son-in-law
- **Jyoti Devi**, Manjhi's daughter's mother-in-law

LJP (Ram Vilas)
- **Simant Mrinal**, nephew of party chief and Union Minister **Chirag Paswan** (in pic)

JD(U)
- **Komal Singh**, daughter of LJP MP Veena Singh
- **Atirek Ram**, son of senior leader Ashok Ram

Rashtriya Lok Morcha
- Party chief Upendra Kushwaha's (in pic) wife **Snehlata**

Jan Suraaj Party
- **Lata Singh**, daughter of former Union Minister **RCP Singh** (in pic)

BJP
- **Samrat Choudhary** (in pic), s/o former minister Shakuni Choudhary
- **Nitish Mishra**, s/o former Bihar CM Jagannath Mishra
- PWD Minister **Nitin Nabin**, son of former MLA Naveen Sinha

Congress
- Bihar Youth Congress Chief **Prakash Garib Das**, son of former MLA **Ramdeo Rai** (in pic)

BJP gained most from Bihar MLA defections since 2020

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Seventeen MLAs switched parties after being elected in the 2020 Bihar Assembly elections, with the BJP emerging as the main beneficiary.

According to the Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR), the BJP inducted seven MLAs who had contested on different party tickets in the past five years, coming from three separate parties. The RJD and JD(U) each admitted five MLAs from other parties.

Two RJD legislators — Bharad Bind and Sangita Kumari — joined the saffron party, while Congress lost two MLAs, Murari Prasad Gautam and Siddharth Saurav, to the BJP.

Three MLAs from the Mukesh Sahani-led Vikasheel Insaan Party (VIP) — Mishri Lal Yadav, Raju Kumar Singh and Swarna Singh — also crossed over to the BJP.

The RJD inducted four AIMIM legislators — Mohd Izhar Asfi, Mohd Anzar Nayeemi, Shahnawaz, and Syed Ruknuddin Ahmad — as well as Bima Bharti from the JD(U).

In return, the JD(U) brought in three RJD MLAs — Chetan Anand, Neelam Devi and Prahlad Yadav — along with BSP's Mohd Zama Khan and LJP's Raj Kumar Singh.

The analysis showed that the RJD lost the highest number of MLAs — five — to other parties, while the BJP and CPI(ML)L did not witness any defections.

Political observers noted that the defections engineered by the BJP and RJD were aimed at maintaining their positions as the single-largest party in the Assembly. In 2020, the RJD had emerged as the single-largest party even though the JD(U)-BJP pre-poll alliance secured a majority.

The ADR's analysis of the outgoing Assembly further revealed that 15 sessions were held between November 2020 and July 2025, amounting to a total of 146 sittings.

Over these five years, the Bihar Assembly met for an average of 29 days per year. The longest sessions were the second and fifth, each lasting 22 sittings.

The report also noted that 251 MLAs raised 22,505 questions. BJP MLA Arun Shankar Prasad asked the most — 275 — followed by Congress' Manohar Prasad Singh (231).

Gujarat CM brings 19 new faces in Cabinet rejig

GANDHINAGAR, PTI: In a major reshuffle, Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel on Friday inducted 19 fresh faces in his council of ministers and retained six from his previous team, including Harsh Sanghavi who was elevated as Deputy CM, while cricketer Ravindra Jadeja's wife Rivaba too made the cut.

With this rejig, the total strength of the council of ministers has now gone up to 26, including the CM, from 17 earlier.

The cabinet restructuring took place two years before the state assembly elections in 2027 and months ahead of the local bodies polls.

Gujarat Governor Acharya Devvrat administered the oath of office and secrecy to all new ministers and to those who were elevated to the cabinet rank or given the MoS independent charge.

Sanghavi, MLA from Majura constituency in Surat who held the position of Minister of State for Home in the previous cabinet, rose to the number two position of deputy CM.

This is for the first time in the last four years under Patel's term as CM that a deputy CM has been appointed in the state.

EC seeks intelligence sharing to curb poll expenditure

SHEMIN JOY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Election Commission (EC) on Friday instructed various enforcement agencies to share intelligence on economic offences to curb excessive expenditure by candidates and political parties during the Bihar Assembly elections.

The directive was issued by Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar during a meeting of the Multi-Departmental Committee on Election Intelligence (MDCEI), which was attended by Election Commissioners Sukhbir Singh Sandhu and Vivek Joshi.

The meeting aimed to prepare a comprehensive roadmap to counter the pernicious influence of cash and other inducements in elections.

Heads of enforcement agencies including the CBDT, CBIC, ED, DRI, CEIB, FIU-IND, RBI, IBA, NCB, RPF, CISF, BSF, SSB, BCAS, AAI and the Department of Posts participated in the meeting. The Bihar Chief Secretary, Director General of Police, State Police Nodal Officer (SPNO) and the Bihar Chief Electoral Officer joined the discussions online.

An official statement said various agencies briefed the EC on their preparations, steps taken, and measures proposed to ensure inducement-free elections. The briefings covered a wide range of topics related to curbing the use of money and other incentives that could vitiate the electoral process, it added.

Emphasising the need for intra-agency coordination at national, state and district levels, the EC directed the agencies to map constituencies to check the movement of smuggled goods, drugs, liquor, and cash, including fake currency.

Bihar Assembly Speaker Nand Kishore Yadav and Maharashtra CM Devendra Fadnavis in Patna on Friday. PTI

Over 1,250 file nominations for first phase

PATNA, PTI: Election fever gripped Bihar on Friday as the filing of nomination papers for the first phase of Assembly polls concluded.

According to the Election Commission, more than 1,250 candidates filed their papers for the 121 seats which go to polls on November 6, and the number was likely to go up as data was still flowing in from districts.

Govt orders probe by retired SC judge into Leh violence

NEW DELHI, PTI: The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) on Friday ordered a probe into the September 24 violence in Leh by retired Supreme Court judge B S Chauhan to find out the circumstances leading to the serious law and order situation, police action and the resultant death of four persons.

According to an official statement, on September 24, a serious law and order situation had arisen in Leh town, resulting in police action leading to the death of four individuals.

"In order to ensure an impartial inquiry, the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, today, notified a judicial inquiry to be conducted by Hon'ble Dr Justice B S Chauhan, former Judge of the Supreme Court of India, into the circumstances leading to the serious law and order situation, the police action and the resultant unfortunate death of the four individuals," the statement said.

The government also expressed willingness to have a dialogue with the Apex Body Leh (ABL) and the Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA) through the High-Powered Committee on Ladakh.

Sabarimala gold: Probe widens after arrest of B'luru-based man

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS: With the arrest of Bengaluru-based Malayali Unnikrishnan Potti in the Sabarimala Ayyappa temple gold looting case, the special investigation team has widened its probe to Bengaluru and other southern states.

Potti is suspected to have handed over the stolen gold to a Bengaluru native named Kalpesh. Investigators are also looking into the possible involvement of officials from the Chennai-based firm Smart Creations. The role of Potti's associates in Bengaluru is expected to come under scrutiny.

Potti was taken into custody from his residence on the outskirts of Thiruvananthapuram on Thursday and formally arrested in the early hours of Friday after nearly 10 hours of interrogation. He was produced before the court and remanded to the custody of the special investigation team for two weeks.

He is learnt to have confessed to the investigators about the alleged role of Travancore Devaswom Board officials in handing over the gold-plated idols and sanctum sanctorum door frames for re-plating in 2019, declaring them as copper. These items had originally been gold-plated in 1998–99 with sponsorship from industrialist Vijay Mallya.

Ch'garh: Over 200 Maoists surrender

PM says nation will be free from Naxal terror soon

JAGDALPUR (CHHATTISGARH) & NEW DELHI, PTI

As many as 210 Maoist cadres, including one Central Committee member, surrendered before authorities in Chhattisgarh's Jagdalpur on Friday, making it the largest mass surrender in the history of anti-Naxal operations in the state.

With this, a total of 238 Naxalites have quit the path of violence and joined the mainstream in the state in the last three days as 28 others had surrendered on Wednesday.

Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai said it was a historic day not only for Bastar, but for the entire nation.

The surrenedered cadre were welcomed into the mainstream by tribal community leaders and priests.

303 surrendered in 75 hours, says Modi

Meanwhile, PM Narendra Modi said it is his guarantee that the day is not far when the nation would be rid of Maoist terror and hit out at the previous Congress regime for nurturing 'urban naxals' and turning a blind eye to violence unleashed by them.

Addressing a media summit, he recounted the recent success in countering Maoist terror, saying 303 Naxal operatives have surrendered in the past 75 hours and only three districts of the country now remain in the grip of left wing extremism.

"Areas that were affected by Naxalism will celebrate Deepavali for the first time in 60-70 years," he said.

"Earlier, the headlines were about vehicles blown up in Bastar. Today, the youth there are organising 'Bastar Olympics'. This is a big change," Modi said.

Naxalites after their surrender at the police lines, Jagdalpur, in Chhattisgarh on Friday. PTI

HAL's 3rd Tejas production line in Nashik

KALYAN RAY
NASHIK, DHNS

Months before the fully weaponised Tejas Light Combat Aircraft Mk1A are to be handed over to the Indian Air Force, state-owned aviation major Hindustan Aeronautics Limited, on Friday, launched its third LCA production line in Nashik, paving the way for the company to produce 24 indigenous jets in a year.

The HAL Nashik complex, which produced 579 MiGs and 220-plus Su-30s over the years, will now manufacture the single-seater delta wing homegrown combat jets and trainer aircraft Hindustan Turbo Trainer-40 for the IAF, which is in dire need of these aircraft.

Inaugurating the facilities, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said India once imported 65-70% of critical military hardware, but is now manufacturing 65% of the equipment at home. The target is to increase domestic production to 100% in the future, he said without giving a timeline.

The IAF, however, still has to wait for a few months to get the first set of Tejas LCA Mk-1, as all weapon trials, including the firing of Astra beyond-visual-range missiles, are yet to be completed.

"Today, the aircraft is ready structurally. So, whatever changes are going to come will be software changes. Whether it's the weapon aiming, the radar, or the electronic warfare (suite), it's going to be software-related. It will be quite easy to quickly upgrade the software to the latest standard and deliver," D K Sunil, HAL chairman and managing director, said.

"The key issue is we have built the capacity, we are building the aircraft, and if we do the weapon trials successfully, then the deliveries will fall quite easily. We are not only increasing production but also contributing to timely delivery to the armed forces," he said.

A man works on the HAL Tejas Mark 1A, a light combat aircraft, after its maiden flight at HAL Nashik. REUTERS

INDIGENOUS EDGE

- With the new facility, HAL is expected to produce at least 24 LCAs
- To make indigenous single-seater delta-wing combat jets and Hindustan Turbo Trainer-40 for IAF
- A 2nd HTT-40 unit to cater to another HAL contract worth Rs 6,838 cr to supply 70 trainer aircraft

Belgian court clears Choksi's extradition: Officials

NEW DELHI, PTI: A court in Antwerp on Friday cleared the extradition of fugitive diamantaire Mehul Choksi, noting that his arrest by the Belgian authorities on India's request was valid, officials in the know of the development said.

The order has come as a strong validation for India's case seeking his extradition, with Choksi having the option of appealing against the decision in a superior court in Belgium, they said.

"The order has come in our favour. The court has termed his arrest by the Belgian authorities on India's request valid. The first legal step in getting him extradited is now clear," a senior official said.

Mehul Choksi

Belgian prosecutors were aided by Indian officials from the external affairs ministry and the CBI in putting forth strong arguments on Choksi's alleged crime in orchestrating a Rs 13,000 crore scam in the Punjab National Bank in collusion with his nephew Nirav Modi.

After hearing the Belgian prosecutors and Choksi's defence lawyers during the hearings in mid-September, the court concluded that his arrest was valid.

Choksi (66) was arrested in Belgium on April 11, based on an extradition request sent by the CBI, they said.

India has also assured the Belgian authorities that if extradited, Choksi would be housed at the Arthur Road jail in Mumbai with no chance of overcrowding.

Kerala student at the centre of hijab row quits school

ARJUN RAGHUNATH
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS

The Standard VIII student at St Rita's School at Palluruty in Kochi, who was banned from wearing a hijab in class, has quit the school.

The girl's father on Friday said she and her family were deeply hurt by the school's stand, and hence they decided to pull her out of the school. He also warned of legal action against those trying to give the incident a communal turn.

The school, meanwhile, reiterated that it was still willing to welcome the student if she adhered to the school uniform.

Kerala General Education Minister V Sivankutty, who is already facing criticism over the issue, continued to take a highly critical stand against the Christian management-run school by stating that "a teacher who is wearing a headscarf (nun's veil) is not allowing students to wear hijab".

He also said the school management would be held responsible for the student leaving the school and the mental agony caused to her.

The issue surfaced on Monday, with activists of the Social Democratic Party of India — linked to the banned Popular Front of India — staging a protest at the school over the student being prevented from wearing a hijab. The school cited a 2018 Kerala HC order that allows it to prescribe uniforms.

Meanwhile, the Kerala HC refused to stay an Education Department order directing the school to let the student wear a hijab.

DRESS DEBATE

- Family warns of legal action against communal spin
- School says will readmit student if uniform is followed
- Minister cites nun's veil to question hijab ban

'Indian telecom services among top 3 globally'

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Union Telecom Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia said on Friday that Indian telecom services are among the top three globally and efforts are on to improve them further.

The minister said that telecom operators have submitted their first reports based on Telecom Regulatory Authority of India's new norms, and discussions are on to resolve issues where their service is not as per the benchmark.

Scindia said that the government has accelerated processes to resolve telecom network rollout in the country.

"Out of 2,415 issues from February till today, we have completed 1,882 issues. Almost 86 per cent of the pain points have been resolved. There is a pendency of 533 issues, on which we are working with the state governments," Scindia said.

Jyotiraditya Scindia

In response to a question on a GSMA report which claimed that only 47 per cent of Indians are connected, the minister said that the report is on those who are not using smartphones.

The Minister said the government has de-licensed the lower frequency range in 6 GHz band spectrum for improving the proliferation of Wi-Fi. With this move, companies using certain frequencies in the 6Ghz band will not need to pay for the radiowaves.

India-Lanka cooperation holds immense importance: Modi

NEW DELHI, PTI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday conveyed to his Sri Lankan counterpart Harini Amarasuriya India's commitment to work together in the shared development journey of the two countries as both leaders held talks to boost overall bilateral ties.

Amarasuriya is on a three-day visit to India beginning Thursday, in her first trip to the country after assuming charge of the top office.

"Our discussions covered a broad range of areas, including education, women's empowerment, innovation, development cooperation and welfare of our fishermen," Modi said on X.

"As close neighbours, our cooperation holds immense importance for the prosperity of our two peoples as well as the shared region," he said.

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said Modi conveyed that Amarasuriya's visit would impart fresh momentum to the "historic and multi-faceted India-Sri Lanka ties".

It said the two leaders discussed measures to strengthen cooperation in a number of areas.

Centre, states apathetic to transgender rights: SC

Says 2019 Act, meant to uphold dignity, has been reduced to dead letter

ASHISH TRIPATHI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Supreme Court on Friday said the Centre and states have exhibited a "grossly apathetic attitude" towards transgenders by defacing the lived realities of this community with their inaction.

A bench of Justices J B Pardiwala and R Mahadevan expressed serious concern over the discrimination faced by transgender individuals despite the enactment of a law in 2019. It directed the Centre to come out with an "equal opportunity policy" within three months of the report submitted by an advisory panel.

The court flagged the sporadic or a complete lack of implementation of measures to ensure the prevention of discrimination against transgenders in various spheres of life, both public and private.

The bench said the Transgender Persons Act, 2019, was enacted to secure the dignity, equality and inclusion of transgenders in the mainstream, considering the cruel history of their policing. Unfortunately, it appeared that the 2019 Act and the Transgender Persons Rules, 2020, had been "brutishly reduced to dead letter", it said.

"Such an attitude cannot be reasonably considered to be inadvertent or accidental; it appears intentional and seems to stem from deep-rooted societal stigma and the lack of bureaucratic will to effectuate the provisions of the 2019 Act and the 2020 Rules," it said.

The court's judgment came on a plea filed by a transgender woman, Jane Kaushik, who was aggrieved by the discrimination and humiliation she faced in employment, which allegedly resulted in her termination from two schools.

Awarding a compensation of Rs 2 lakh to the petitioner, the court also constituted a committee to be headed by Justice Asha Menon, retired judge of the Delhi High Court, to formulate an equal opportunity policy for the protection of the rights of transgender persons.

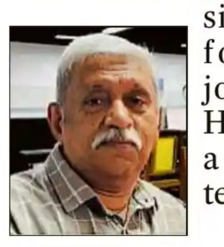
The bench said the litigation was an eye-opener for one and all, and called for immediate attention to the transgender community's plight in the country. The court pointed out that despite its clear directions on September 8, 2022, the Union government feigned ignorance and chose not to act.

The court noted that, in response to a question put in the Upper House of Parliament in March 2023, the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment stated that there was no policy in place to reasonably accommodate transgender persons in employment.

"Such a stance is in blatant disregard of the mandate of Chapter IV of the 2019 Act, which obligates the appropriate government to take steps in order to secure the full and effective participation of transgender persons and their inclusion in society," the bench said.

Sajeev Kumar re-elected to global SND Board

BENGALURU, DHNS: TK Sajeev Kumar from Kerala has been re-elected to the Board of Directors of the Society for News Design (SND)—the world's leading professional body for visual journalists. He will serve a two-year term.


TK Sajeev Kumar

Sajeev was first elected to the board in 2024 and continues to be the only Asian member on the board.

Founded in 1979 and headquartered in the United States, SND promotes excellence and innovation in visual journalism worldwide.

Sajeev is the Editorial Director of NewspaperDesign.org, a prominent global platform dedicated to news design.

He brings with him over 31 years of experience in the print media industry.

Four new members have been elected to the Board of Directors: Zachary Balcoff, Sara Chodosh, Tyler Remmel, and TK Sajeev Kumar. Each will serve a two-year term.

No foul play: S'pore cops on Zubeen's death

SUMIR KARMAKAR
GUWAHATI, DHNS

Rahul Gandhi pays tribute to late singer Zubeen Garg at his resting place in Assam's Sonapur on Friday. PTI

In an interesting development in the death case of singer Zubeen Garg, the Singapore Police on Friday stated that, based on preliminary investigations, it does not suspect foul play in the incident.

"The Singapore Police Force (SPF) is aware of speculation and false information circulating online regarding the circumstances of Mr Zubeen Garg's death. The case is currently being investigated by the SPF in accordance with Singapore's Coroners Act 2010. Based on preliminary investigations, the SPF does not suspect foul play," the Singapore Police Force said in its first official statement on the case.

The statement came amid widespread agitation and political squabbling in Assam, with demands for justice from Garg's family and fans.

The 52-year-old singer died while swimming in the sea in Singapore with his friends and associates on September 19.

The Singapore Police said that their investigation was still underway and would take about three more months to complete.

The findings will be made public once the inquiry concludes, the statement said.

Rahul meets family

Meanwhile, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Friday said it is the responsibility of Assam government to carry out a swift and transparent investigation into singer's death.

"Zubeen Da's family, and the people of Assam, deserve nothing less than truth and justice. The government must ensure a swift and transparent investigation," Gandhi said in Guwahati after meeting Garg's family members.

"I spoke to the family, and they only said one thing to me: that we have lost our Zubeen and all we want is that the truth should be clear," he said.

SC takes cognisance of digital arrest scams against seniors

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Supreme Court on Friday issued notices to the Centre, the CBI and other authorities after registering a suo motu case concerning "digital arrest" scams that have defrauded senior citizens of their life savings.

A Bench of Justices Surya Kant and Joymalya Bagchi asked Attorney General R. Venkataramani to assist the court, noting the alarming rise in such crimes across the country.

The court took a stern view of the fraudulent use of judicial authority by scamsters, stating that such acts strike at the very foundation of public trust in the judicial system and the rule of law.

The suo motu writ petition was initiated following a complaint filed by a senior citizen couple from Ambala, who were allegedly cheated of over Rs 1 crore in a digital arrest scam between September 3 and 16, 2025.

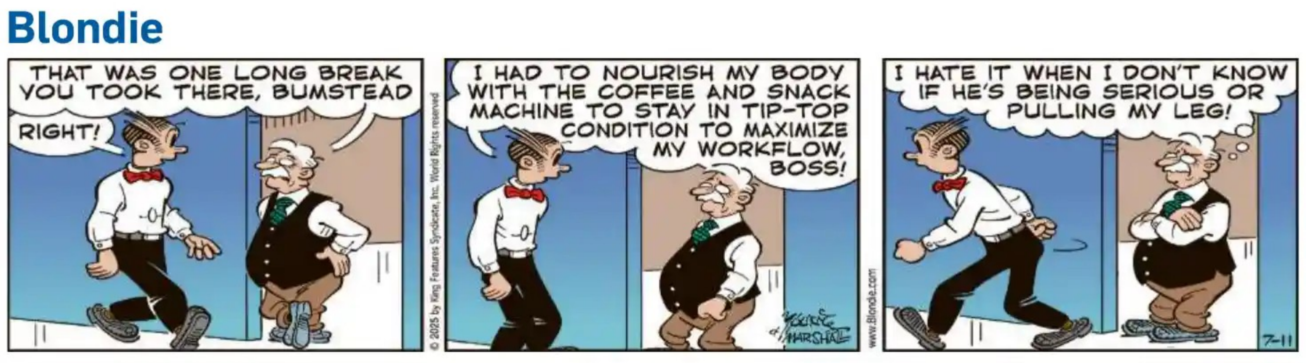
"The victims have stated that they were contacted by individuals impersonating CBI officers and other authorities through telephone and video calls. The fraudsters displayed forged Supreme Court orders via WhatsApp and video conferences, and under the threat of arrest and seizure of property, compelled the victims to transfer Rs 1 crore 50 lakh," the Bench noted.

Ordinarily, the court observed, it would have directed the state police to expedite the investigation and bring it to a logical conclusion. However, it expressed grave concern over the forgery of documents and the criminal misuse of the name, seal and judicial authority of the SC and HCs.

MISCELLANY

COMICS

Blondie



Hagar The Horrible

Beetle Bailey

Peanuts

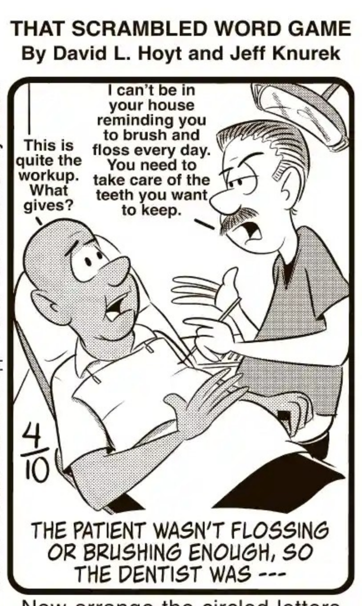
Marvin

JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

DMMEO
GYUBG
LACITI
NHHOOC



Get the free JUST JUMBLE app • Follow us on Twitter @PlayJumble

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

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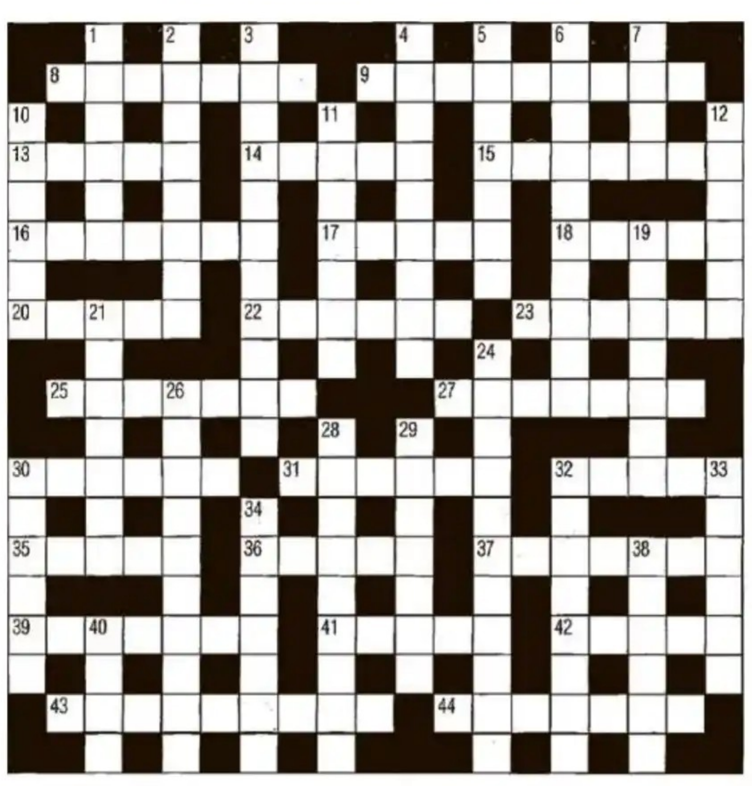
(Answers Monday)

Yesterday's Jumbles: ELITE SIGHT BOLDLY CANVAS
Answer: The general wanted his son to help around the house, but it was a — LOSING BATTLE

CROSSWORD CHALLENGE 4010



ACROSS
8 Sure (7)
9 Fruit (9)
13 Change (5)
14 Material (5)
15 Spear (7)
16 Dog (7)
17 Fad (5)
18 Animal (5)
20 Regretting (5)
22 Affront (6)
23 Nipped (6)
25 Search (7)
27 Agree (7)
30 Sew (6)
31 Show (6)
32 Shatter (5)
35 Inexperienced (5)
36 Advantage (5)
37 Result (7)
39 Got to (7)
41 Compel (5)
42 Lift (5)
43 Route (9)
44 Dupe (4-3)

DOWN
1 Improved (6)
2 Bird (8)
3 Tree (6,5)
4 Wretched (9)
5 Hide (7)
6 Quibble (5,5)
7 Colour (4)
10 Affair (6)
11 Debate (7)
12 Scattered (6)
19 Followers (7)
21 Fancy (7)
24 Strive (2,3,3,3)
26 Used (6-4)
28 Truce (9)
29 A hundred (7)
30 Sweet (6)
32 Support (8)
33 Attendant (6)
34 Roams (7)
38 Another name for marjoram (6)
40 Singer (4)

CRYPTIC

ACROSS
8 Interrupt a burglary (5-2)
9 With anticipation, warning, you see (9)
13 By the previous wife, do right (5)
14 Having, myself, got fifty on "Tropical Fruit" (5)
15 The non-attendance of Jack, the scene-shifter (7)
16 Lack of guile and love found in a dog (7)
17 Thought many had been exploited (5)
18 High but not squeaky! (5)
20 Psychiatrist's answer to "Is he sane to keep wandering the world?" (5)
22 A bird's nest? (3,3)
23 With an imitation cover, or awning (6)
25 Rust in the centre of the gun (7)
27 How's about "Everything in it is superficial"? (7)
30 Hissing back when the cat's caught it (6)
31 Decline to take the dog back, but have to (2,4)
32 The snag about the haul? (5)
35 For her the cockney had jellied eel (5)
36 Metes out the Dover sole, not over cooked (5)
37 Quick to show what you feel (7)
39 He throws into jug (7)
41 As head cook, I am in the middle (5)
42 Yours is in the hold (5)
43 Provided with, fully equipped to live in (9)
44 Within the house is the scoundrel (7)

DOWN
1 Decree otherwise and I fall out with (6)
2 It's very fashionable is what I've just said (4,4)
3 Business colleagues? (4,7)
4 Team up with the children and take part in the controversy (4,5)
5 Looks like "Best wishes" (7)
6 If frost damaged everything to start with (5,2,3)
7 It's said to stop a tot from growing (4)
10 Would the light be a trick? (6)
11 By the colour, you'll see how old the feathers are (7)
12 Is committing murder such a sin? (6)
19 Find it's a warning (4,3)
21 A low gear, in some strange way, is making it fast (7)
24 Different look you get when you're on holiday (6,2,3)
26 Prepare to strike - vote for it (5,1,4)
28 Had been picked up, one gathered (9)
29 A jersey, perhaps, an item of underwear found in the meadow (7)
30 For the dog, I got food from the fishmonger's (6)
32 To provide the finishing touch, has money left to (3,2,3)
33 Since then, has bustled about to hurry up (6)
34 Now line up and speak to (7)
38 Find out lice are exterminated by it (6)
40 A trip and it's back in the old routine, love! (4)

SOLUTIONS TO CROSSWORD 12269

CRYPTIC
ACROSS: 1, Essay 6, P-O-pp-y 9, Ber-tram 10, Chest 11, Rails 12, Spear 13, Son-nets 15, Des(-pots) 17, Plot 18, Co.-gent 19, Gruel 20, D-rear-y 22, Do-pe 24, So-t 25, Liberal 26, Man-ia 27, Ab-b-ot 28, G-IV-en 29, Old boys 30, Weedy 31, Meaty.
DOWN: 2, School 3, AB-sent 4, Ye-T 5, St-ops. 6, Paras-ol 7, OM-ar 8, Pollen 12, Story 13, Spuds 14, Nonet (tenon) 15, D-E-cor 16, St.-eel 18, Celia 19, Gre-atl-y 21, Rouble 22, Devise 23, Pa-rent 25, Limbo 26, Moo-D 28, Gym.

EASY
ACROSS: 1, Sprat 6, Tamed 9, Gradual 10, Glory 11, Lends 12, Cedes 13, Accedes 15, Era 17, Deed 18, Stones 19, Flies 20, Idlers 22, Mere 24, Too 25, Aspirin 26, Slice 27, Cacti 28, Purse 29, Acrobat 30, Verbs 31, Needy.
DOWN: 2, Palace 3, Agreed 4, Try 5, Edges 6, Talents 7, Ales 8, Endure 12, Cells 13, Admit 14, Cello 15, Enter 16, Aspen 18, Sense 19, Frolics 21, Donate 22, Minute 23, Rinsed 25, Actor 26, Stab 28, Pan.

SU-DO-KU-6729

	7	1		4		3		
2		3	5				1	9
					3		2	
				7	2	9		
		6	8	5				
	1		4					
3	9				8	5		4
		5		2		1	6	

hard

SOLUTION TO 6728

2	5	4	1	8	6	7	3	9
8	3	1	9	7	2	6	4	5
9	6	7	3	4	5	1	8	2
5	2	8	6	3	7	4	9	1
3	4	6	8	9	1	5	2	7
7	1	9	5	2	4	8	6	3
1	7	3	4	6	9	2	5	8
6	8	2	7	5	3	9	1	4
4	9	5	2	1	8	3	7	6

To solve the puzzle: To solve a su-do-ku puzzle, every digit from 1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows, and in each of the nine boxes.

HITORI-3183

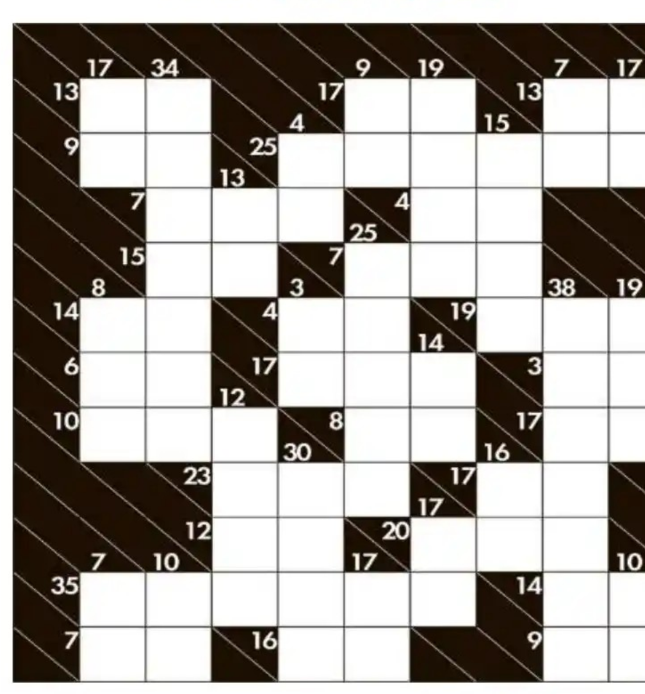
6	5	6	4	6	8	6	2
2	4	5	1	1	5	3	8
6	3	6	8	5	2	4	6
3	1	3	6	4	3	8	5
3	6	6	1	8	4	2	1
6	7	8	6	3	1	5	4
7	8	6	6	2	3	3	1
3	2	1	5	3	7	1	4

SOLUTION TO 3182

3	8	4	■	5	1	6	7
■	7	2	3	■	6	■	4
4	1	■	8	2	■	7	6
2	3	5	■	1	7	4	■
■	4	3	7	■	8	2	1
5	2	■	1	7	■	3	■
1	■	6	2	3	5	■	8
■	6	7	■	4	3	8	5

To solve the puzzle: Eliminate numbers by filling in squares so that remaining cells in that row or column do not repeat that number more than once. Filled-in cells cannot be horizontally or vertically adjacent. The un-filled cells must form a single component connected horizontally and vertically.

KAKURO-3183



SOLUTION TO 3182

To solve the puzzle: Put a number from 1 through 9 in a cell. No zeros. A number in a cell separated by diagonal line tells the sum of numbers in consecutive cells at its right or downward. No number may appear more than once in consecutive cells.

SCRABBLE

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RACK 1: O O Y M O N N — 5th Letter Triple
RACK 2: U T L B R A U — Double Word Score
RACK 3: O U R T P E R — Triple Word Score
RACK 4: E R V N I I I
RACK 5: L U Q Y L A E

PAR SCORE 155-165
by JUDD

FIVE RACK TOTAL
TIME LIMIT: 25 MIN

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2- to 7-letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words are in the Collins English Dictionary. JUDD'S SOLUTION TOMORROW

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

SECRET — RACK 1 = 14
MUDLARK — RACK 2 = 78
BLOCK — RACK 3 = 13
ENDGAME — RACK 4 = 83
JUDD'S TOTAL 188

PAR SCORE 120-130

SU DO KU X - 3709

7		4						3
	3							
		5						
		3		9				
					6			1
				8	2	1		
8					7	6		
5	2	9						

SOLUTION TO 3708

6	8	9	4	2	1	3	5	7
4	1	3	7	5	9	6	2	8
2	5	7	8	6	3	4	9	1
9	6	4	2	1	8	5	7	3
8	7	5	9	3	4	2	1	6
1	3	2	6	7	5	9	8	4
7	4	1	3	9	2	8	6	5
3	9	6	5	8	7	1	4	2
5	2	8	1	4	6	7	3	9

To solve the puzzle: The objective is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column, each 3x3 box and each shaded diagonal line contains the same number only once.

US sinks global deal on decarbonising ships

LONDON, AFP: An international vote to formally approve the reduction of maritime emissions was delayed by a year on Friday, marking a victory for the United States, which opposes the carbon-cutting plan.

The London-based International Maritime Organisation (IMO), the United Nations' shipping body, had voted in April for a global pricing system to help curb greenhouse gases.

However, the follow-up vote to formally approve the deal was cancelled on Friday and postponed until next year after US President Donald Trump threatened sanctions against countries supporting the plan.

Sharp divisions—particularly between oil-producing nations and non-oil producers—surfaced during meetings leading up to Friday's planned vote. Delegates instead approved a hastily arranged resolution to delay proceedings, which passed by 57 votes to 49.

On Thursday, Trump denounced the proposed global carbon tax on shipping as a "scam" after the US withdrew from IMO talks in April.

Trump hesitant to sell Tomahawk to Ukraine

Zelenskyy seeks Tomahawks as US Prez plans talks with Putin

WASHINGTON, AFP

US President Donald Trump and Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy at the White House in Washington on Friday. REUTERS

WHY IT MATTERS

- Tomahawk missiles can travel 550 mph over 1,600 km, carrying 1,000 lb of explosives, allowing Ukraine to hit Russian military, energy and infrastructure targets far behind the frontlines.
- Possessing it will boost Ukraine's bargaining power, as the threat of precise strikes on high-value targets pressures Russia.
- Each missile will cost around $1.75 million.

US President Donald Trump suggested Friday it would be premature to give Tomahawk missiles to Ukraine, saying as he hosted Volodymyr Zelenskyy that he hoped to secure peace with Russia first.

"Hopefully they won't need it. Hopefully we'll be able to get the war over with without thinking about Tomahawks," Trump told journalists as the two leaders met at the White House. Trump added that he was confident of getting Russian President Vladimir Putin to end the invasion he launched in 2022, following a phone call with the Kremlin chief a day earlier.

The US and Russian presidents agreed on Thursday to a new summit in the Hungarian capital Budapest, which would be their first since an August meeting in Alaska that failed to produce any kind of peace deal.

"I think that President Putin wants to end the war," Trump said. But Zelenskyy, who wore a dark suit for his third meeting with Trump in Washington since the US president's return to power, demurred, saying that Putin was "not ready" for peace.

Ukraine has been lobbying Washington for Tomahawks for weeks, arguing that the missiles could help put pressure on Russia to end its brutal three-and-a-half year invasion. But on the eve of Zelenskyy's visit, Putin warned Trump in a call against delivering the weapons, saying it could escalate the war and jeopardize peace talks.

Trump said the United States had to be careful to not "deplete" its own supplies of Tomahawks, which have a range of over 1,600 km.

Diplomatic talks on ending Russia's invasion have stalled since the Alaska summit.

But Trump, who once said he could end the war in Ukraine within 24 hours, appears set on pursuing a breakthrough to follow the Gaza ceasefire deal that he brokered last week.

The Kremlin said Friday that "many questions" needed resolving before Putin and Trump could meet, including who would be on each negotiating team. But it brushed off suggestions Putin would have difficulty flying over European airspace. Hungary said it would ensure Putin could enter and "hold successful talks" with Trump.

India tells B'desh to respect border after Tripura killings

NEW DELHI, DHNS: After Dhaka protested the killing of three Bangladeshi nationals who allegedly crossed into a Tripura village to steal cattle, New Delhi on Friday urged the interim government led by Muhammad Yunus to ensure respect for the international boundary.

The three men reportedly entered Bidyabil in Tripura on October 15, attacked local villagers with choppers and knives when confronted, and killed one Indian resident. Two of the intruders were later found dead, while the third died in hospital after being injured. Their bodies were handed over to Bangladeshi officials, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said.

"This incident underscores the need for Bangladesh to undertake necessary measures to uphold the sanctity of the international boundary and support the construction of fencing where needed to prevent cross-border crimes and smuggling," the MEA stated.

Bangladesh termed the killings "unacceptable" and "heinous". A case has been registered over the deaths of the Indian villager and the three Bangladeshis.

WORLD AT A GLANCE

A Hamas militant stands guard as searches are underway for the bodies of Israeli hostages killed by the group, amid a ceasefire with Israel, in Khan Younis, Gaza, on Friday. REUTERS

Bolton surrenders to face charges of mishandling classified files

▶ John Bolton arrived at a federal courthouse on Friday to surrender to authorities on charges accusing the former Trump administration national security adviser—now a vocal critic of the president—of emailing classified information to family members and keeping top-secret documents at his home, AP/PTI reports from Greenbelt.

John Bolton

Bolton did not speak to reporters as he entered the courthouse in Greenbelt, Maryland, where he was expected to make an initial appearance before a judge on the 18-count indictment brought against him on Thursday. "Now, I have become the latest target in weaponising the Justice Department to charge those he deems to be his enemies with offences that were declined before or distort the facts," Bolton said in a statement after a grand jury returned the indictment on Thursday. Bolton is accused of sharing with his wife and daughter more than 1,000 pages of notes that included sensitive national defence information gathered from meetings with government officials.

Temporary Af-Pak truce expires

▶ A 48-hour ceasefire between Afghanistan and Pakistan expired on Friday evening, leaving the region on edge as officials on both sides remained silent on the deadline's passing, AFP reports from Kabul.

The truce, which began at 6 pm Islamabad time (1300 GMT) on Wednesday, paused nearly a week of bloody border clashes that killed dozens of troops and civilians on both sides. The violence escalated from Saturday, days after explosions rocked Kabul, just as the Taliban's foreign minister began an unprecedented visit to India. Pakistani foreign office said it was necessary to "wait for 48 hours" to "see if the ceasefire is held", without providing further details.

Meta adds parental controls

▶ Meta is adding parental controls for kids' interactions with artificial intelligence chatbots—including the ability to turn off one-on-one chats with AI characters altogether—beginning early next year, AP/PTI reports from New York.

But parents won't be able to turn off Meta's AI assistant, which Meta says will "remain available to offer helpful information and educational opportunities, with default, age-appropriate protections in place to help keep teens safe."

Parents who don't want to turn off all chats with all AI characters will also be able to block specific chatbots. And Meta said Friday that parents will be able to get "insights" about what their kids are chatting about with AI characters—although they won't get access to the full chats.

Clashes erupt near Bangladesh parliament

DHAKA, PTI

Bangladesh police fired teargas and used batons and sound grenades on Friday to disperse protesters gathered near Parliament, even as interim government chief Muhammad Yunus hailed the signing of the long-debated July Charter as the birth of a "new Bangladesh".

The clashes broke out after hundreds of demonstrators refused to vacate the area near the Parliament complex, where the signing ceremony for the July Charter was taking place. The protesters demanded state recognition, legal protection and rehabilitation for those injured during last year's demonstrations that toppled former prime minister Sheikh Hasina's Awami League regime in August 2024.

According to bdnews24.com, the protesters scaled the main gates of Parliament, vandalised police vehicles, and set fire to a temporary control room and reception area. Police responded by chasing them out of the compound, using teargas and batons to restore order.

Despite the unrest, Yunus presided over the signing ceremony at the Parliament Complex. "It's the birth of a new Bangladesh," he said, as leaders of 25 political parties, including former prime minister Khaleda Zia's Bangladesh Nationalist Party and Jamaat-e-Islami, signed the joint declaration.

The July Charter, drafted by the Yunus-led National Consensus Commission, includes over 80 reform proposals for governance and national reconstruction. However, Yunus's key ally, the student-led National Citizen Party (NCP), boycotted the event, calling the document legally baseless.

"The National Citizen Party will not sign the July Charter," said Hasnat Abdullah, chief coordinator of the NCP. Party convenor Nahid Islam alleged that some political parties were "frauding" the people in the name of national consensus.

China probes top military general, punishes nine senior officers

BEIJING, PTI: China's second-ranked general was placed under investigation for corruption, while nine senior military officers were punished for violation of discipline, the defence ministry said on Friday in a rare public disclosure.

He Weidong, vice-chairman of the Central Military Commission and a member of the 24-man Politburo, was expelled from the Communist Party of China and the army. Gen He, who was not seen since August, is the first serving member of the present Politburo to face such an investigation, the South China Morning Post reported.

US biz lobby sues Trump admin over new H-1B visa fee

WASHINGTON, PTI

The US Chamber of Commerce has filed a lawsuit against the Donald Trump administration's decision to impose a $100,000 fee on all new H-1B visa petitions, describing it as a "misguided policy and plainly unlawful" action that could cripple American innovation and competitiveness.

The lawsuit, filed on Thursday in Columbia, challenges the administration's September 19 proclamation, Restriction on Entry of Certain Nonimmigrant Workers, arguing that it violates the Immigration and Nationality Act by overriding Congress's authority to regulate the H-1B visa programme. The Departments of Homeland Security and State, along with their secretaries, Kristi L Noem and Marco Rubio, respectively, have been named as defendants.

The exorbitant fee, up from the current level of around $3,600, would make it "cost-prohibitive for US employers, especially start-ups and small and mid-sized businesses, to utilise the H-1B programme, which was created by Congress expressly to ensure that American businesses of all sizes can access the global talent they need to grow their operations here," said Neil Bradley, Executive Vice-President and Chief Policy Officer at the US Chamber.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

E-Tender Notification

This office letter No.033/PB/Tnd/2025-26/5054-3054/2603/ Dated: 16-10-2025

On 16-10-2025 through Karnataka Public Procurement Portaltender notification has been issued for the following Work Indent No. 27608/Call-2 & 24769/Call-3 Last date for submission of tender receipt is assigned on Dated: 29-10-2025 (upto 4:00 PM).

For further additional information, any changes & queries visit https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.

Sd/- (N.N.Patil)
Executive Engineer,
PWD Division, Haveri

DIPR/HVR/459/2025-26

JHARKHAND URBAN INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT COMPANY LIMITED
(Govt. of Jharkhand Undertaking)
JUIDCO Bhawan, Kutchery Road, Ranchi-834001, Jharkhand. Ph No.: +91-651-2225878,
CIN: U45200JH2013SGC001752, e-mail Id-juidcolimited@gmail.com

Corrigendum-01

PR Ref. No: **363874**
NIT No.: **JUIDCO/NIT/RA/SC/2025-667**
Tender ID: **2025_UDD_105678_1**
Name of the work: **Development of Roundabout of Sahjanand Chowk Hardscape & Softscape work.**

All the bidders are hereby informed that **Corrigendum-01** for the Tender ID: **2025_UDD_105678_1** Project Name: **"Development of Roundabout of Sahjanand Chowk Hardscape & Softscape work."** has been published on the e- procurement website (https://jharkhandtenders.gov.in) of Government of Jharkhand, and they may submit their bid proposal accordingly.

Sd/-
Project Director (Technical)
JUIDCO Limited, Ranchi

PR.NO.364413 Urban Development and Housing(25-26):D

KARNATAKA STATE WAREHOUSING CORPORATION
Ugrana Bhavana, No.43, Primrose Road, Bengaluru - 560025
Phone: 080-29533679, Fax: 080-29533673 email:gmfinance@gmail.com

No:KSWC/ACT/SIF/06/1205/2025-26 Dated: 16.10.2025

ON LINE E-TENDER NOTIFICATION

Karnataka State Warehousing Corporation invites online e-tenders from the reputed I.R.D.A registered Insurance Companies for Stock Insurance for a period of one year from 03.11.2025 to 02.11.2026 for 182 Warehouse centers. The value for coverage of Insurance is Rs.5000.00 Crore (Rupees Five Thousand Crores Only) and also for Insurance for Fidelity Guarantee/Crime Floater Insurance on 149 Warehouse Managers and a Cashier at Head Office, Bangalore, for a period of one year. The value for the Fidelity Guarantee/Crime Floater Insurance Coverage will be Rs.1.00 Crore, per person (Warehouse Centre) total sum assured of Rs.20.00 Crores (Rs. Twenty Crores Only) for 149 Warehouse Managers and a Cashier at Head Office total 150 Persons.

1) Tender documents available in e-Proc portal from **16.10.2025** 2) Pre bid Meeting: **21.10.2025 @ 11.00 A.M.** 3) Last Date & Time for Submission of Tender through online **27.10.2025 upto 11.30 A.M.** 4) Date & Time for Opening of Technical bid **28.10.2025 at 12.00 noon.** 5) Date & Time for Opening of Financial bid **28.10.2025 at 4.00 PM.** 6) Tender processing fee as per e-portal.

Sd/-
Managing Director

DIPR/CP/3334/CCL/2025-26

IDEMI
Organised by IDEMI Mumbai, Ministry of MSME, Govt. of India

GENERATIVE AI FOR BUSINESS AUTOMATION

Course Timing 10.00 AM To 1.00 PM (ONLINE) 25th, 26th Oct - 1st, 2nd Nov 2025 Duration: 4 Days

COURSE FEES : RS. 8000/- +18% GST

Email: training@idemi.org Website: https://idemi.org/

HANDS ON EXERCISES & LEARNING

Course Content: Basic Understanding of Gen AI, Fundamental of Business automation, How to select tools for automation, Market in Process Automation, Sales Process Automation, HR and Team Management, Finance and Billing, Operations and Project Management, Business reporting and dashboards, Customer support process

Who can atend: Any student / professional / Entrepreneurs with basic computer programming knowledge should join the course.

After Successful Completion Certificate Will be Issued
Scan QR Code For Registration & Fees Payment

Contact No: 8879774348, 7738184063, 9920554528

Govt. of Karnataka
Karnataka Residential Educational Institutions Society, Bengaluru
(An Organisation of Government of Karnataka)
No.8, MSB-1, 6th & 7th Floor, KSCMF Building
Cunningham Road, Bengaluru-560052

No.: KREIS/EDN/7/2025-EDU-196830 Date: **17.10.2025**

TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through e-Tendering Only)

Tenders have been invited from eligible agencies on 17.10.2025 for **Conducting of K-CET /NEET/JEE Online & Offline Training Classes to 1st PU Students of Residential Schools/Colleges** of KARNATAKA RESIDENTIAL EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS SOCIETY for the year 2025-26 through (No: **KREIS/2025-26/SE0046)** e-Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** and the last date for receipt of tender is **07.11.2025.** The details may be viewed in the above website.

Sd/- Executive Director
KREIS, Bengaluru

DIPR/CP/YC/3349/2025-26

CAUVERY NIRAVARI NIGAMA LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka under taking)
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, KABINI CANALS DIVISION, NANJANGUD-571301, DISTRICT; MYSORE
Phone / Fax No: 08221-226261, e-mail:kcdngd@gmail.com

BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through Karnataka Public Procurement e-Portal only)
(Two Electronic Document System: e-D1-Technical Bid and e-D2-Financial Bid)

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

No-16/2025-26 Dated: 16-10-2025.

Item rate basis tenders have been invited through KPP e-Portal in two tender document system as per **KW-4&6 and KW-3**, standard bid documents for the works of "Improvements to Left bank and Right bank Canal networks under Suvarnavathi Reservoir Project. [Work Indent No-3999]" and "Providing Pipe line to Huralinanjipura tank in Chamarajanagara taluk for drinking water purpose [Work Indent No-4000]" for **Rs. 2520.21 Lakhs and 51.85 Lakhs** respectively, from eligible contractors registered in KPWD/CPWD.

Details of tender processing fee, EMD amount, Pre bid meeting details, Last date for submitting and opening of tender and other details can be had from KPPP e-portal web site **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Further information can be obtained from this office.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, CNNL KC Division, Nanjangud.

Jawaharlal Nehru Planetarium
Bangalore Association for Science Education
(A Registered Society of the Government of Karnataka)

ADDENDUM TO NOTIFICATION
NOS.DP/EST/053/2025-26 AND DP/EST/054/2025-26 DT. JUNE 24, 2025

As a one-time measure, Government of Karnataka vide order dt. 29.09.2025 has instructed that age relaxations are to be provided in the recruitment of personnel.

Those who have already applied in response to our above notifications dated: 24.06.2025 need not apply again. Those applications will be considered along with fresh applications.

JNP invites applications for the post of First Division Assistant and Second Division Assistant again (one post each) as per the order of the GoK. Details and the application forms are available in the website: **taralaya.karnataka.gov.in**

Last date for receipt of completed applications is **31.10.2025**

Date: 14.10.2025 **Administrative Officer**

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

Tender Notice No. UBL/SG/CN/191/ALT/LMT-WDL/2025-26-01

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tenders for the following works.

Name of the Work	Approx. Value
Hubballi Division : Alteration to Existing Electronic Interlocking System (Hitachi) at Wandal Station and Associated works for completion of Doubling between Almatti - Wandal Section of Gadag - Hotgi Doubling Project.	Rs. 2,87,84,895/-

Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 15:00 Hrs on 03-11-2025**

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in

Deputy Chief Signal & Telecom Engineer/Construction/Hubballi
PUB/556/AAS/PRB/SWR/2025-26

Download the UTS Mobile App from Google Play Store for ease of booking of unreserved tickets

South Western Railway-SWR SWRRLY @SWRAILWAYHQ @sw_railways

ELECTRICAL WORKS IN ALIPURDUAR DIVISION

Tender Notice No.: AP/EL/02/25-26 RT; **Dated:** 14-10-2025; E-Tender are invited by the undersigned for the following work; **Tender No.:** AP/EL/02/25-26 RT; **Name of Work :** At Alipurduar Jn. Division - Provision of IOT devices for monitoring and control of electrical general assets in connection with IR-NIYANTRAC and Comprehensive Annual Maintenance Contract (CAMC) of IoT devices for monitoring of electrical general assets for a period of 08 (Eight) years in IR-NIYANTRAC. **Advertised Tender Value:** ₹4,58,76,932.80/-; **Earnest Money:** ₹3,79,400/-; Date & time of **closing** of tender at **15:00** hrs. and **opening** at **15:30** hrs. on **12-11-2025.** For details please visit in website **www.ireps.gov.in**

DRM/Elect. (G), Alipurduar Jn.
NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
Serving Customers With A Smile

UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES, DHARWAD
Estate Branch, Krishinagar, Dharwad - 580005.
Phone : +0836-2214291 E-mail : spo@uasd.in

No: Ex.O/EO/Tender-eproc-08/2025-26 Date: 14-10-2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through e-Procurement Portal)

University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad is inviting tender for **Procurement of Lab/Scientific Equipments & Agricultural Implements** through e-Procurement Portal. The registered authorized suppliers are requested to visit the Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** and download the documents for participation in the tender. Last Date and Time for Receipt of Tender: **30-10-2025 (Thursday) till 4.00 PM.** Other Schedule of Events can be availed in the e-Portal. For more details please Contact: **0836-2214291** during office hours.

Tenderers need to register with e-Procurement Portal of Govt. of Karnataka B'lore, For details of registration please contact Ph. No: **080-46010000.** Bidders are requested to get updated with the corrigendum / addendum (if any) issued online at the following link in the entire tender process. **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/-
ESTATE OFFICER

DIPR/Dharwad/772/Adverto/2025-26

ನಗರಸಭಾ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ, ಉಡುಪಿ
ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಉನಸ:ಬಿ4:ಸಿ.ಆರ್:2025–26 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 17.10.2025

ಟೆಂಡರು ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಪುರಸ್ಕೃತ ಅಮೃತ್ 2.00 ಯೋಜನೆಯ ಘಟಕವಾದ "ಜಲ್ ಹಿ ಅಮೃತ್" ಉಪಕ್ರಮದಡಿ ಈ ಕೆಳಗಿನ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯನ್ನು ಕೈಗೊಳ್ಳಲು ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ Standard Bid Document K.W.-3ರ ನಿಯಮ ನಿಬಂಧನೆಗೊಳಪಟ್ಟು (ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಅಪ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿರುವಂತೆ) e-procurement ಮೂಲಕ ಟೆಂಡರುಗಳನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಕಛೇರಿ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದವರಿಂದ ಮತ್ತು ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in ನಿಂದ ಪಡೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳಬಹುದು.

1) ತುಂಬಿದ ಟೆಂಡರುಗಳನ್ನು ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 31.10.2025 ಸಂಜೆ 5.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ
2) ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸಲಾದ ಟೆಂಡರುಗಳ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ಡನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 03.11.2025 ಪೂರ್ವಾಹ್ನ 11.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ
3) ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ಡು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಅರ್ಹ ಬಿಡ್ಡುದಾರರಿಗೆ ಪ್ರತ್ಯೇಕ ತಿಳಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು.

ಕ್ರ.ಸಂ.	ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ವಿವರ	ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ	ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ.	ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ ಪೂರ್ತಿಗೊಳಿಸುವ ಅವಧಿ
1.	DMA/2025-26/WS/WORK_INDENT50123	10000000.00	150000.00	5 ತಿಂಗಳು

ಸಹಿ/–
ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರು
ಉಡುಪಿ ನಗರಸಭೆ

ಸಹಿ/–
ಪೌರಾಯುಕ್ತರು
ಉಡುಪಿ ನಗರಸಭೆ

Government of Karnataka
KARNATAKA FOREST DEPARTMENT
Office of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
(Head of Forest Force), Karnataka, Aranya Bhavan
18th Cross, Malleshwaram, Bengaluru-560003. 080-23346551

No: KFD/HOFF/B10(TND)/2/2025-ICT-KFD Date: **17.10.2025**

Tender Notification

The Karnataka Forest Department (KFD) has published e-tender No. KFD/2025-26/IND0312 dated: 17-10-2025 in the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal of Government of Karnataka for Supply & Installation of **All-in-one-Desktop Computers, Laptops & Servers with five years Comprehensive Warranty and A4 size multifunction printers, high-speed scanners, with three years Comprehensive Warranty and MS Office licenses, Microsoft SQL server Licenses, Windows Server Licenses, across various offices of KFD.**

The e-tender No. KFD/2025-26/IND0312 dated: 17.10.2025 can be accessed through **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**. Interested bidders may download the detailed tender notification from the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal. The last date for submission of tender is **28.11.2025 at 5.00 PM.** The technical bid will be opened on **29.11.2025, 5.00 PM** and financial bid will be after completion of evaluation of technical bid.

Sd/- **Deputy Conservator of Forests (Head Quarters)**

DIPR/CP/YC/3350/2025-26

Dhanteras: Quick commerce bets big on bullion vending

Platforms collaborate with major jewellery brands for the occasion

UMA KANNAN
BENGALURU, DHNS

Every year during Dhanteras, which is considered the auspicious beginning of the Diwali festival, quick commerce platforms such as Zepto, Instamart and Blinkit vie to cash in on by offering 10-minute delivery of gold and silver coins. This year, Dhanteras falls on Saturday (October 18), and q-commerce platforms said that they are expecting a surge in demand and that they are ready to cater to the Dhanteras and Diwali rush.

Instamart said on Friday that it will deliver 1 kg silver bricks, along with a wide array of gold and silver coins, across key metros. The platform has collaborated with brands such as Kalyan Jewellers, Malabar Gold & Diamonds, Muthoot Exim, MMTC-PAMP, Mia by Tanishq, Voylla, and new entrants like Gullak to offer certified gold and silver coins. It will also deliver other items like silver jewellery and utensils for the occasion.

Samit Guha, MD and CEO at MMTC-PAMP, told *DH* that in today's fast-paced world, consumers seek both authenticity and agility in their

festive purchases. "During occasions like Dhanteras and Diwali, we've seen a marked preference for quick and convenient access to 999.9+ purest gold and silver minted products such as coins and bars."

Instamart said consumers can order gold in weights ranging from 0.1 g to 10 g. Also, they can have a 1 kg silver brick delivered to their doorsteps, the platform said.

Over the past few years, demand for gold and silver on Instamart has seen steady uptake, especially during festivals like Akshaya Tritiya and Dhanteras. Last year, cities such as Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Mumbai, Delhi NCR, and Ahmedabad placed the most precious-metal orders on the platform. "The 1 gm gold coin remains the most popular denomination. Last Diwali, a user in Kochi placed a gold order worth Rs 8.3 lakh," it added.

Last year, during Dhanteras, Zepto saw 4x growth in silver coins and 3x growth in Laxmi, Ganesh Idols/photos compared to the previous year. Aadit Palicha, co-founder and CEO of Zepto, in a post on LinkedIn, said that in the last Dhanteras, Zepto users turned out in record numbers, driving a 6x jump in gold coin sales. "Delhi-NCR led this gold rush, with Mumbai and Bengaluru close behind," he said.

During the Amazon Great Indian Festival 2025, customers are increasingly turning to Amazon Fashion for their festive and auspicious purchases of gold and silver coins for occasions like Akshaya Tritiya and Dhanteras — reflecting a growing preference for authentic, BIS-hallmarked products, said Siddharth Bhagat, Director, Amazon Fashion and Beauty, India.

"Shoppers are exploring a wide selection of coins across price points and weights, with 2g coins emerging as the most popular choice. This Dhanteras and Diwali, shoppers can shop for gold and silver coins on Amazon.in with the added benefit of same-day and next-day delivery," Bhagat added.

Dinkar Sharma, Company Secretary and Partner, Jotwani Associates, said this online shift is driven largely by evolving consumer preferences and the increasing digital maturity of the Indian market. "Urban customers, especially younger, tech-savvy users, now expect convenience and speed even when purchasing high-value items. Quick commerce caters to this mindset," he said.

He added that platforms have made significant investments in dark stores, hyperlocal inventory stocking, real-time demand forecasting, and secure logistics to ensure safe and swift deliveries of high-value items.

Reliance Q2 net profit rises 9.6% YoY, slips sequentially

Higher inventory losses weighed on overall earnings

MUMBAI, PTI

Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL) on Friday reported a 9.6% year-on-year (YoY) rise in net profit for the September quarter, driven by strong performance in its consumer-facing retail and telecom businesses and a recovery in its core oil-to-chemicals segment.

However, higher inventory losses weighed on overall earnings, leading to a sequential decline compared to the previous quarter.

The oil-to-retail conglomerate posted a consolidated net profit of Rs 18,165 crore in July-September - the second quarter of April 2025 to March 2026 fiscal (FY26) - higher than Rs 16,563 crore in the same period a year back, the company said in a statement.

Profit, however, sequentially fell 33% when compared with Rs 26,994 crore in the April-July quarter.

New customer addition and higher per user income together with its wireless broadband services becoming the world's largest helped post a 13% YoY jump in telecom earnings, improving store operating matrix helped retail earnings soar 22%. Improved refining margins and the highest-ever crude oil processing helped the O2C business.

But a drop in oil prices meant that the value of carrying inventory fell sequentially in Q2. Inventory loss doubled to Rs 8,421 crore when compared with Q1.

The profit before tax (EBITDA) rose 14.6% YoY to Rs 50,367 crore. This was despite a 13.5% rise in finance cost due to higher debt (Rs 3.48 lakh crore as of September 30, 2025, compared to Rs 3.38 lakh crore on June 30). Also, depreciation increased by 12% YoY to Rs 14,416 crore.

Jio Platforms Ltd, the subsidiary that houses the telecom and digital businesses, saw profits rise by 13% to Rs 7,379 crore in Q2.

All four key parameters - data minute usage, data consumed, average per-user earnings and number of subscribers - grew. The customer base rose to 506.4 million from 498.1 million in April-June. Average revenue per user rose to Rs 211.4 from Rs 208.8 in the preceding quarter.

Its wireless broadband service, JioAirFibre, amassed a subcriber base of 9.5 million - the highest by any telecom operator in the world. Reliance said it is adding over 1 million new homes each month.

Retail arm Reliance Retail Ventures Ltd posted a 22% YoY rise in profit to Rs 3,457 crore. While it opened 229 new stores to take the number to 19,821, the area operated was almost the same at 77.8 million square feet as the company continued to rationalise operations to maximise operating margin.

Oil-to-chemical business, which houses the company's twin refineries at Jamnagar in Gujarat and petrochemical plants, saw EBITDA rise 21% to Rs 15,008 crore in Q2. It was up sequentially as well due to higher product cracks, which helped improve refining margins. Also helping was the highest quarterly refining throughput of 20.8 million tonnes.

In the fuel retail business, Jio-bp - its joint venture with BP of the UK - saw diesel and petrol sales rise by 30% in the quarter and its retail network crossed 2,000 outlets, the statement said.

Lower gas output from KG-D6 fields led to a 5.4% fall in the pre-tax profit of its oil and gas business to Rs 5,002 crore in Q2. "The average KGD6 production for the 2Q is 26.1 million standard cubic metres per day of gas and 18,746 barrels a day of oil," it said.

Commenting on the results, Reliance chairman and managing director Mukesh D Ambani said, "Reliance delivered a robust performance during 2QFY26 led by strong contribution from O2C, Jio and Retail businesses." Digital services business, he said, continues to scale-up with positive momentum in subscriber addition.

CORPORATE SCOREBOARD FOR Q2FY26

Tata Technologies PAT up 5%

Global product engineering and digital services firm Tata Technologies Ltd on Friday reported a 5.14% rise in consolidated profit after tax at Rs 165.5 crore for the second quarter ended September 30, 2025.

The company had posted a profit after tax (PAT) of Rs 157.41 crore in the corresponding period last fiscal, Tata Technologies said in a regulatory filing.

Revenue from operations in the quarter under review stood at Rs 1,323.33 crore as against Rs 1,296.45 crore in the year-ago period.

Total expenses in the second quarter were higher at Rs 1,150.97 crore as compared to Rs 1,095.4 crore in the same period last fiscal, the company said.

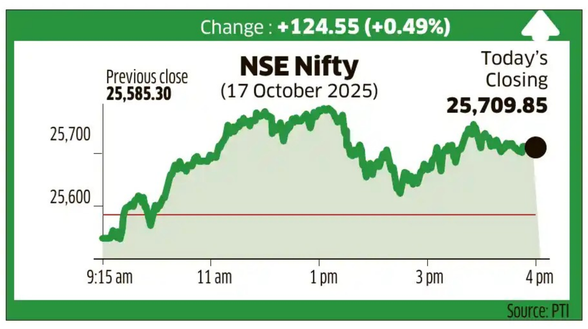
Commenting on the performance, Tata Technologies Ltd CEO and Managing Director Warren Harris said,"Q2 FY26 was a quarter of strong progress and positive momentum. We achieved a return to growth, upheld margin discipline, strengthened our strategic position in Europe, advanced our innovation agenda, and continued to invest in talent and partnerships that fuel long-term value creation."

JSW Steel posts four-fold quarterly profit rise

Top steelmaker JSW Steel said it expects improved steel prices in the third quarter after reporting a nearly fourfold rise in second-quarter profit on Friday, driven by higher sales volumes despite lower prices.

The company reported a consolidated net profit of Rs 1,623 crore for the quarter ended September 30, against Rs 439 crore profit a year ago. It posted a 20% rise in sales in the quarter, with capacity utilisation in its key market, India, at 92%. This, along with high manufacturing activity in the country, boosted demand.

The company's total expenses in the quarter rose 11.3%, as the cost of materials consumed increased by about 9% from a year ago. Its adjusted earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation, and amortization (EBITDA) margin expanded to 17.4% from 14.2% in the year-ago period, but was lower than 18.2% in the previous quarter.



Earnings, demand rebound hopes lift Nifty to one-year high

REUTERS: India's equity benchmarks advanced on Friday as heavyweights HDFC Bank, ICICI bank and Reliance Industries rose, and logged weekly gains, as optimism over an earnings rebound and growing expectations of a December rate cut buoyed sentiment.

The Nifty 50 rose 0.49% to 25,709.85, settling at one-year high levels, while the BSE Sensex gained 0.58% to 83,952.19.

Both indexes added about 1.7% for the week, now sitting roughly 2.5% below their record highs from September 2024.

Strong earnings from Nestle India, aided by recent government tax cuts, signaled a revival in consumption and powered the stock 7.5% higher this week.

Minutes from the Reserve Bank of India's latest policy meeting further lifted rate-sensitive sectors this week.

Consumer stocks climbed 3%, and auto and realty advanced 2% and 4.1%, respectively during the week. Financials, banks rose 2.6% and 2%, respectively. hitting record high levels.

LTIMindtree splits wage hikes across two quarters

BENGALURU, DHNS

IT services firm LTIMindtree will spread its wage hikes over two quarters, in January and April. Venu Lambu, CEO and MD, LTIMindtree, during the Q2 earnings call on Thursday, said that they may not have a one-time wage hike in one particular quarter for all employees and that it will be spread over two quarters.

"My personal view is that this may be the new normal going forward as well. The first tranche will be effective from January 1, and the second one will be in the April quarter. And I would expect that we will have to adjust to the new normal, that we will have two stages of increments coming in for our employee base," he said.

About 50% of the workforce will receive a hike in January, and the rest in April. "We are going through a very significant inflection point in the industry and also within our company. And there are a lot of opportunities on the other side of the inflection point. We must navigate this journey collectively with our employees. And one of the critical aspects is how we cross-skill and upskill our employees to meet the requirements of AI projects," he added.

The company employs 6,447 professionals as of September 30, 2025. It added 2,558 employees in the second quarter. The company secured a large deal with a leading global media and entertainment company to drive its digital transformation and enable an AI-centric delivery model in the second quarter.

In August, the company was awarded a Rs 792 crore mandate by the Government of India's Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) to transform India's PAN (Permanent Account Number) infrastructure. As a part of the Government to Citizen (G2C) initiative, this PAN 2.0 project will consolidate all PAN and TAN services into a single and streamlined digital platform.

Chara Technologies raises Rs 52 cr in Series A

BENGALURU, DHNS: Chara Technologies, a deep-tech powertrain solutions company developing rare-earth-free motors and controllers, has raised Rs 52 crore ($6 million) in Series A funding led by Arkam Ventures, with participation from Exfinity Venture Partners, Kalaari Capital, and IIMA Ventures. The company is gearing up to establish a new factory in Bengaluru along with a dedicated testing and validation facility.

The expansion is expected to increase Chara's production capacity five-fold, from 20,000 to 100,000 units annually. The firm is also launching new product lines, including lighter, higher-speed motors, larger-capacity variants, and industrial models, strengthening Chara's end-to-end powertrain architecture.

RBI's gold pile tops $100 billion on surging bullion prices

MUMBAI, REUTERS: India's gold reserves crossed the $100 billion mark for the first time, according to the Reserve Bank of India's latest foreign exchange reserves data, buoyed by a global price rally even as the central bank's purchases slowed sharply this year.

India's gold holdings rose by $3.595 billion to $102.365 billion in the week through October 10, RBI data showed on Friday, while overall foreign exchange reserves declined $2.18 billion to $697.784 billion.

The share of gold in India's total reserves climbed to 14.7%, the highest since 1996-97, according to traders.

Gold's share in India's foreign exchange reserves has almost doubled over the past decade — from below 7% to nearly 15% — reflecting both steady central bank accumulation and a surge in global bullion prices.

That's led to the $100 billion milestone being hit despite a marked slowdown in the RBI's gold purchases this year.

The central bank bought gold in only four of the first nine months of 2025, compared with near-monthly additions in 2024, according to World Gold Council data.

Cumulative buying from January to September stood at just 4 tonnes, sharply lower than 50 tonnes in the same period a year earlier.

The share of gold in India's foreign exchange reserves has increased significantly, largely driven by valuation gains from the rising gold price, said Kavita Chacko, research head for India at the World Gold Council. Gold has surged about 65% in 2025, powered by a potent mix of macroeconomic, institutional and psychological drivers.

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
Department of Minor Irrigation and Office of the Executive Engineer Ground Water Development
M.I. & GWD Division, Mysore

TENDER NOTIFICATION NO: 17/2024-25, Dated: 16.10.2025

On behalf of the Governer of Karnataka, the Executive Engineer, M.I. & GWD Division, Mysore invites tenders from registered and eligible contractors under "Kppp" Portal as per the terms and conditions prescribed in standard tender documents of KW1,KW2, & KW3 for 21 works, minimum amount put ot tender Rs.6.00 lakhs, maxmium amount put to tender Rs.75.00 Lakhs and EMD amount minimum Rs.0.075 lakhs and maximum amount Rs.1.50 lakhs. The other tender details are given below. Any information regarding this tender may be obtained from this office during office hours up to: Date: 27.10.2025 – 5-00 PM. Last date to upload the tenders with the prescribed E.M.D and requisite documents through website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in: Date: 28.10.2025 – 5-30 PM. The bids will be opened: Date: 30.10.2025 – 11-00 AM

Note: All the rights are reserved for postponement or cancellation of all bids or any individual bids of this tender notification without assigning any reasons by the under signed. The terms and conditions for each work is published in the " Kppp" Tender Portal. Any corrigendum pertains to above tender will be published in KPP Portal only.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, MI & GWD Division, Mysore.
DIPR/DDMYS/1087/KSMCA/584/2025-26

KARNATAKA STATE ROAD TRANSPORT CORPORATION
CIVIL ENGINEERING DIVISION: BENGALURU - 560 027.

No: KST/EE/JE/556/2025-26 **Date: 17.10.2025**

KPP PORTAL TENDER NOTIFICATION

Tenders/Bids are invited from eligible registered Contractors/individuals/agency/firms by the Executive Engineer, Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation, Civil Engineering Division, Bengaluru for the works detailed below:

Sl. No.	Tender Notification No.	Name of the work	Amount put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs)	E.M.D (in Rs.)
1.	10	Development works IInd stage at Kempegowda Bus Station in Bangalore (Call-02).	277.35	4,16,000/-

Time limit in months (Including Monsoon) : 04 Months.

More details can be obtained by logging on to the website: **htttps://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Executive Engineer, KSRTC CE Division, Bengaluru
DIPR/CP/3345/MAA/2025-26

UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES, RAICHUR
[ICAR, NAAC accredited and UGC u/s 12(B) & 2(f) approved]
Stores Purchase Officer, UAS, Raichur - 584104,
E-mail: spo@uasraichur.edu.in Ph: 08532-220165

E-Tender Notification No. SPO/UASR/E-Proc-08& 09/2025-26, Dt:14.10.2025.

TENDER NOTIFICATION

The University of Agricultural Sciences, Raichur is inviting e-tender notification for 1. Establishment of center for solar operated Hydroponic technology complete on turn key basis including procurement of hydroponic unit, furnitures, scientific equipments & construction works at UAS, Raichur

2. Establishment of center for Strengthening & demonstration of post harvest physiological studies laboratory complete on turn key basis including procurement of vacuum packing unit, furnitures, scientific equipments & construction works at UAS, Raichur. The interested suppliers are requested to participate through online only. The website address iswww.kppp.karnataka.gov.in(Indent Number:-UASRCR/2025-26/IND0066& 0067. The last date for submission of filled in Tender Document is 05.11.2025.

Sd/- Stores Purchase Officer UAS, Raichur.
DIP/RCR/472/KSMCA/473/2025-26

Government of Karnataka
TOWN MUNICIPAL COUNCIL CHINCHOLI DIST. KALABURAGI
Email Id. ltstaff_ulb_chincholi@yahoo.in Phone No. 08475-273058

Sl. No.TMCCCL/Tech.Sect/01/2025-26 Date. 15.10.2025

:: SHORT-TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION ::

Chief Officer, TMC Chincholi, 15th Finance for the year 2025-26, SFC, SBM. Savings amount scheme and Municipal Fund Grant Schemes for the year. (1999-2000) Short-term tenders are invited as per Karnataka Transparency Rules (KTTP) for the works and eligible interested renewed/registered contractors are invited under KW-1 and KW-2. https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in I was told to participate online.

1) Details of work/goods service: 1.DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT40583, 2. DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT49108 (ST RESERVED), 3. 1.DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT49107 (ST RESERVED), 4.DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT49103 (CAT-2A), 5.DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT49098, 6.DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT49110, 7.DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT49118, 8.DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT49123, 9.DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT49195, 10.DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT49200, 11.DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT49201 (CAT-2A), 12.DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT49204, 13.DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT49205 (CAT-2A), 14.DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT49208, 15.DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT49209, 16.DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT49211, 17.DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT49291 (SC RESERVED), 18.DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT49292 (SC RESERVED), 19.DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT49293, 20.DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT49295 (SC RESERVED), 21.DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT5869, 22.DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT49299, 23.DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT50360 (CAT-I), 24.DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT50362 (SC RESERVED), 25.DMA/2024-25/SE4913/CALL-2, 2) Tender amount for work / goods service: **0.40 lakhs to 52.00 lakhs**, 3) Eligibility of Contractor: Registered eligible PWD and Electrical Contractor 4) Tender amount for works: **0.40 lakhs to 52.00 lakhs**, 5) Tender application price and EMD amount: Tender application fee will be charged as per e-procurement and EMD of works Rs. 1.00 lakh to 20.00 lakhs at 2.5% and EMD of works Rs. 20.00 lakh to 50.00 lakhs at 2%. And For SC, ST, Category-1 and Category-2A, EMD is 1.25% for Rs. 1.00 lakh to Rs. 20.00 lakh and 1% for Rs. 20.00 lakh to Rs. 50.00 lakhs. 6) Last date for submission of tender online application : On 27.10.2025 at 17.30 in the evening, 8) Technical bid opening date: 29.10.2025 at 11.30 am, 9) Financial bid opening date 06.11.2025 at 11.30 am, 10) Address and telephone number to contact for further details : Near Bidar Cross New TMC Office Chincholi Dist. Kalaburagi - 585307, 11) Website address: **www.chincholitown.mrc.gov.in**

Sd/- President TMC Chincholi **Sd/- Chief Officer TMC Chincholi**
DIPR/Kalaburagi/628/KSMC&A/2025-26

When the lights went missing

Tini Sara Anien writes about how a pair of twins discover the true meaning of Deepavali

Deepavali without lights? That's like cake without frosting!" Aarav whined.

His twin sister, Meera, looked up from the floor where she was sitting. "Calm down, Aarav. It's probably just a power cut."

But it wasn't. The entire street — every window and balcony — was dark. Even the stars were missing from the sky.

"Something's wrong...," said Aarav, adding, "Deepavali, the festival of lights, is tomorrow! How can we celebrate if there are no lights?"

Dadi, their grandmother, sighed while polishing a silver diya, meant for puja. "I just called up the folks at the electricity board. They say it will take a whole day to fix the issue. We'll have to manage with candles and diyas till then," she said.

Aarav slumped onto the sofa dramatically. "Manage? We were supposed to have the brightest house in the lane! I told Rohan we would beat his fairy lights arrangement this year," said the seven-year-old.

Meera rolled her eyes and said, "The festival isn't about competing — isn't it about celebrating the festive spirit together?"

"Easy for you to say. You're not the one who claimed I would win!" retorted Aarav.

Dadi smiled as she listened to their banter. "You know, when I was a child, we didn't have fairy lights or lanterns. Everyone helped each other. We shared whatever diyas we had, and somehow, it always seemed enough," she recalled.

That night, Aarav couldn't sleep. He sat up and looked out into the dark street. Even the mango tree looked gloomy, its leaves still. Suddenly, something flew past his window.

"Fireflies!" he whispered. Hundreds of them twinkled in the nearby park like tiny lamps.

An idea struck him like a spark. The next morning, Aarav ran into the kitchen. "Operation Deepavali Lights begins now!"

Meera, who was enjoying her breakfast, nearly dropped her toast. "What operation?" she asked.

"We are going to find lights that can shine without electricity!" Aarav grinned. Meera was curious and followed him.

They stopped at the park. Aarav was carrying a medium-sized mason jar. Meera was skeptical. "You think we can light up our balcony with bugs?" she asked.

"Fireflies are nature's fairy lights!" Aarav said excitedly, trying to trap a firefly in the jar. It buzzed away.

"You can't just catch light, Aarav," Meera giggled. "Also, maybe the flies don't want to be trapped."

Aarav frowned. "You're right. Maybe I was looking at this the wrong way."

Suddenly, a group of boys appeared, led by Rohan. "Hey, Aarav! Heard your house is going to be the darkest this year," he said, teasingly. Aarav pointed at the fireflies. "I had a plan, but it failed," he admitted.

Rohan snorted. "You were going to decorate your house with bugs? That's... eww."

Meera jumped right in. "At least our lights wouldn't need batteries."

The boys laughed and walked off, calling their house "the bug house!" Aarav's shoulders drooped.

But Meera looked at the fireflies and shook her head. "Maybe we just need to make a different kind of light."

Back home, she rummaged through their art box. "What if we make lanterns out of old jars and paper — like in Dadi's time, when people made their own lights?"

Soon, their table was covered with glue, glitter, coloured paper, and chaos. Aarav painted faces on jars — happy, sleepy, even a goofy one that looked like Rohan.

They worked all afternoon, laughing, arguing, and accidentally gluing Aarav's sleeve to newspaper sheets. By evening, they had a dozen lanterns. But there was still one problem.

"How do we light them?" Aarav asked.

Just then, Dadi entered with a box of tiny clay diyas. "I thought you might need these," she said, smiling.

They placed the diyas inside each jar and along the balcony railings. The light glowed through the jars, painting the walls in orange, blue, pink and yellow hues.

Neighbours peeked out of their windows, smiling. Soon, Rohan and his friends came running. "Whoa! Your house looks like a rainbow!" he exclaimed.

Aarav grinned and did a victory dance while Meera clapped.

The boys asked if they could make some lanterns too. Aarav and Meera shared their leftover jars and papers, and taught them how to make them. Soon, the entire lane was glowing with these handmade lights.

Dadi watched on, her eyes shining. "Looks like the light has returned after all."

Later that night, Aarav asked softly, "Dadi, do you think we won the competition this year?"

She smiled. "You didn't just win, beta. You reminded everyone what the festival is really about."

Meera asked, "About diyas?"

"No," said Dadi, putting an arm around the twins. "About bringing light where there's darkness — not just outside, but inside too. You helped others shine. That's what truly makes the festival special."

Everyone laughed and cheered, enjoying their favourite sweets that their neighbours and Rohan had brought over.

As the soft glow of their lanterns filled the street, Aarav whispered, "This might actually be the warmest and brightest Deepavali ever."

2 DIY crafts for Deepavali

Use paper and other stationery to make these

Diyas

Materials needed
- Coloured craft paper
- Scissors
- Glue
- Double-sided tape

Method
1) Cut a rectangular piece of coloured paper for the diya base.
2) Cut a smaller rectangular piece for the flame.
3) Take the rectangle for the diya base. Fold it in a fan/accordion style: make small folds of 1-1.5 cm back and forth until the entire rectangle is folded.
4) After folding, pinch the centre of the fan to bring it together. Secure it with a dab of glue, or tape so the folds spread out like a semi-circle.
5) Take the smaller rectangle for the flame. Fold it in a similar fan/accordion style. Pinch and secure at the bottom vertically to form a pointed flame shape. You can use scissors to cut it into a flame shape too.
6) Attach the flame to the top centre of the diya base using glue. Hold for a few seconds to ensure it sticks properly.
7) You can add glitter, sequins, or stickers to give the diyas a more festive look.
8) Use a double-sided tape to stick the diyas to your walls.

Streamers

Materials needed
- Coloured craft paper
- Scissors
- Needle
- String or twine
- Glue
- Pencil and ruler

Method
1) Select craft papers in different colours. You can also mix and match shades for a festive look.
2) Cut the paper into squares (4x4 cm or any size you prefer).
3) Fold each square diagonally to form a triangle.
4) Thread a needle with a long piece of string or twine. Carefully pierce through the middle of the flat base of the triangle and pass it through to the top tip.
5) Repeat the process, leaving a small gap between each triangle for spacing.
6) Use glue on the insides of the triangle to secure it on the twine.
7) Make several strings with triangles in different colours and lengths.
8) Use tape to hang these streamers on your balcony, windows, doorway, walls, or even outside.

LET'S DEBATE!

Want to take part in the upcoming *Open Sesame* debate? Share your thoughts in a crisp 200-word essay on the topic: 'Can one person make a difference to the planet?' Mail your works to *opensesame@deccanherald.co.in.* Entries close on October 30. Open to children below 16 years. Don't forget to mention your name, age, school and city. And send us a recent photograph.

Word of the Week

vignette

(noun)
— a short, descriptive scene or sketch

Usage:
— The documentary is structured as a series of vignettes.
— The novel opens with a poignant vignette of a child watching the rains from a cracked window.

The secret life of toys...

Open Sesame readers write about their favourite companions in verse

Concealed lives

Life of toys, would be full of joys.
But secret life would be little scary,
And so many curious feelings it would carry.
The doll was under the table,
But after Tommy (kid) returned,
Now, doll was under the large gable.
This made Tommy wonder,
That did the doll wander?
Tommy made up his mind to find,
What's happening in real,
He started with zeal
And someday, he saw his
Teddy stealing his meal.
Behind soft and charming
toys, a secret life they
conceal.

ASBAH SADATH, 14
Bengaluru, Karnataka

My toy doggy

Lovely toy,
Pinky-ponky, jumpy joy!
With blinking eyes so bright,
You make my days feel light.
When we're apart, I wonder why —
Do you dream or fly up high?
Do you giggle, do you sigh?
Maybe sometimes even cry?
Let's go wild and have some fun,
Muddy, sandy, under the sun!
Candy laughs and happy noise —
That's our world, my
toy doggy!

— SNEHA R DEVANGAMATH, 12
Ilkal, Karnataka

First friend

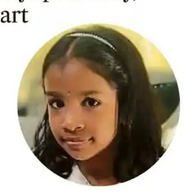
The first friend of a child,
And the member of the house,
From being new and wrapped
To being the best and paradise.
A child's emergency helpline,
The first one to make all happy,
The only one to draw no lines,
And having no expectancy.
From being the one,
To being the old one,
The feeling of being
replaced,
Not only hurts toys but
also living ones.

— MANYA M, 15
Bengaluru, Karnataka

Special buddy

When you were shiny, bright, and new,
I played all day and laughed with you.
But after a while, you slipped away,
I searched and searched — no clue all day.
Then cleaning time brought a surprise,
There you were before my eyes!
In a box or on the floor,
Hiding quietly, nothing more.
Torn and dusty, worn with time,
Still you sparkle, still you shine.
Though broken, you're my special toy,
You always bring my heart
pure joy.

— PRANAVI LOKESH, 8
Hubballi, Karnataka



ART CORNER

Love painting?

Want to showcase your flair for colours? Send your paintings on the theme 'October' to *Open Sesame* and stand a chance to get featured in an upcoming edition. Mail photographs of your work to *opensesame@deccanherald.co.in.* Open to children below 16 years. Don't forget to mention your name, age, and city. And send us a recent photograph of yourself. Entries close on October 23.

This Week:

Elusive and endangered

Open Sesame Quiz

Take the fun Open Sesame quiz, and stand a chance to win gift vouchers worth Rs 500. Open to children below 16 years.

Q1 On October 18, World Okapi Day, we celebrate the extraordinary okapi. Which is the only country in the world where it is found, and protected by law as its national animal?

Q2 Okapis resemble deer, zebras and several cloven-hoofed, ruminant mammals. Which animal, that does not share many striking external similarities with the okapi, is still its nearest extant relative?

Q3 The white horizontal stripes on the legs of the okapi help the young ones keep track of their mothers, in dark, dense forests. What are these stripes called?

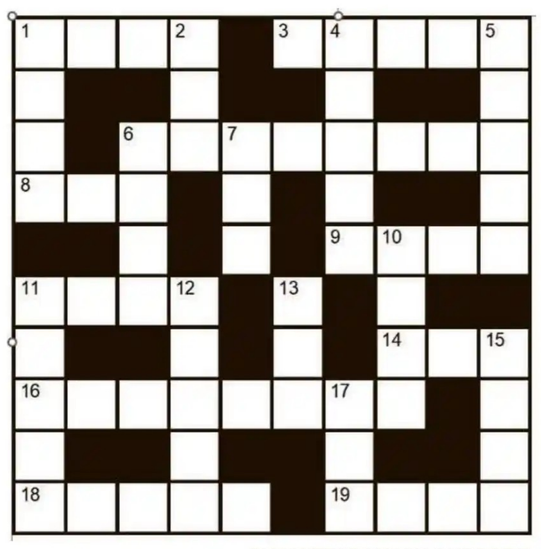
Scan the QR code
Or visit bit.ly/DHopensesame to participate in the quiz.

Q4 **Rhyme Time:** Two clues to which the answers rhyme with each other.
Clue A: The okapi grooms its eyes and ears with its —.
Clue B: Support on a ladder for the foot.

Q5 **Clue Cluster:** Which zoo in North America first exhibited an okapi?
Use these clues:
a) Park
b) Rainey Memorial Gates
c) Rockefeller Fountain
d) 1937

LAST WEEK'S WINNERS: V Radhakrishnan (11), Bengaluru; Harshitha N (15), Mysuru; Chinmayee Rawath (13), Bengaluru.

CROSSWORD



BY CHITTARANJAN ANDRADE

Across
1 To smile broadly (4)
3 To furrow the brow in displeasure (5)
6 Uncharacteristic (8)
8 Floor covering (3)
9 Paradise (4)
11 Unconscious state (4)
14 Small in number (3)
16 Wealthy (8)
18 To screw up the face in anger (5)
19 To cry (4)

Down
1 Appearing unhappy (4)
2 Hard fruit (3)
4 To elevate (5)
5 Synthetic material (5)
6 Tiny particle of matter (4)
7 Pronoun (3)
10 Adroit (4)
11 Converses casually (5)
12 To permit (5)
13 Small in size (3)
15 Cord that delivers lashes (4)
17 Present moment (3)

ANSWERS
Across: 1 Grin, 3 Frown, 6 Atypical, 8 Mat, 9 Eden, 11 Coma, 14 Few, 16 Affluent, 18 Scowl, 19 Weep.
Down: 1 Glum, 2 Nut, 4 Raise, 5 Nylon, 6 Atom, 7 You, 10 Deft, 11 Chats, 12 Allow, 13 Wee, 15 Whip, 17 Now.

A doctor's account

My little patients fight colossal battles

For seven years, Dr Mohammad Ishak Tayoob has been working as a paediatric palliative care physician, treating children with severe health conditions. He writes about the quiet resilience of his patients, and the joy in the midst of all the pain and uncertainty

IMAGING: DEEPAK HARICHANDAN

When a 19-year-old with osteosarcoma (an aggressive form of bone cancer) first came to our outpatient clinic, she was quiet and withdrawn, rarely speaking or making eye contact. But as time passed, and her illness progressed, the efforts of our team to build a connection slowly began to take effect.

During one of our conversations, she confided in us one of her deepest wishes: she wanted to be a poet. Intrigued, we encouraged her to bring some of her writing to her next visit. She did. And her words were beautiful. Moved by our appreciation, she continued to write, pouring her thoughts and emotions into poetry right up until her final days.

After her passing, her mother brought us the notebook she had written in. As we turned its pages, we were in tears. But in that moment, we also knew we had been given something priceless — a glimpse into her soul, and a memory we will always carry with us.

Palliative medicine is filled with profound moments and deeply human stories. As a paediatric palliative care (PPC) expert, I feel privileged to walk alongside patients and their families through some of their most challenging times. Often, we are inspired by their resilience — especially in children and young adults.

A 2017 study estimated that 21.6 million children worldwide require PPC, with 8.2 million in need of specialised services. In India alone, an estimated 1.6 million children need specialised PPC. However, the number of trained PPC specialists in the country remains critically low. This shortfall is largely due to limited awareness about the field and a lack of structured training opportunities. Encouraging more young paediatricians to pursue this speciality could significantly enhance the quality of life for children living with life-limiting and life-threatening conditions.

Making the transition

I have been working in the field of paediatric palliative care for seven years, across government institutions, NGOs, trust-aided organisations, and the corporate sector. However, I began my career as a general paediatrician in 2015 and initially worked as a consultant in a corporate hospital.

I had always been interested in intensive care and wanted to care for children with complex, critical needs. During this period, I came across a job opportunity at a tertiary cancer centre. While exploring whether to take it up, I learned about the existence of a dedicated paediatric palliative care programme at MNJ Cancer Institute and Regional Cancer Centre in Hyderabad. It was something I had never heard of before. When I observed the services provided by their team, I was deeply moved and intrigued. This experience inspired me to join their fellowship programme instead of taking up the ICU job.

I had quite a few reservations when I decided to enter this field. At the time, I was doing well as a consultant paediatrician, so making a shift felt risky. I often doubted whether it was the right decision at that stage of my career. A few of my seniors discouraged me from joining the fellowship, and even my parents advised me to think carefully before making the change.

Initially, I planned to pursue paediatric palliative medicine part-time after completing the fellowship. However, over time, it became my full-time passion.

Expanding work

My experience in PPC has evolved significantly over the years. When I first joined, our focus was on providing palliative care for children with cancer. Most of our patients came from the MNJ cancer institute. Later, we expanded our work to include neonatal palliative care at Niloufer Children's Hospital, a tertiary paediatric hospital located just across the street. Gradually, we also began providing holistic care across all of their sub-specialities.

My fellowship coincided with the first wave of COVID-19, which brought many challenges. Despite that, we continued advocating for PPC and worked to increase referrals across both hospitals. Once the COVID-19 waves subsided, our collaborations strengthened, and we were able to reach and support many more families.

My day usually begins with ward rounds, where I visit children and their families in the ICU and inpatient wards. After completing the rounds, I move to the outpatient department (OPD) service within the hospital. In addition to clinical work, much of my time is also devoted to advocacy and knowledge-sharing — conducting sensitisation sessions at the workplace and engaging with other platforms to promote awareness about PPC.

Courage in adversity

Some experiences in long-term care are especially moving. Recently, a nine-year-old patient recovering from transverse myelitis (a rare neurological disorder) — and the resulting paralysis — found the courage to return to school using a wheelchair we had arranged for him. It took months of encouragement, repeated home visits, and gentle reassurance to help him face his fears: fears of no longer fitting in, of being unable to keep up, and of being ridiculed. We also engaged with school staff to ensure they understood his needs and could support his reintegration into the classroom. Chronic illnesses often bring a host of social, economic, physical, and emotional challenges — ones that the palliative care team walks alongside families to navigate.

Perinatal and neonatal palliative care present a distinct set of challenges and responsibilities. In many cases, we support expectant parents as they come to terms with a prenatal diagnosis indicating that their baby may be born with a life-limiting condition. In other instances, the diagnosis may not be immediately fatal but may involve a chronic, inoperable, or incurable illness requiring ongoing medical management.

These scenarios demand complex, multidisciplinary decision-making, often under intense emotional stress. The palliative care team plays a critical role in guiding families through this process — providing clinical insight, emotional support, and continuity of care. Many of these infants transition to long-term home-based care, where palliative services continue to support quality of life and family wellbeing.

One such case involved a two-day-old infant diagnosed with epidermolysis bullosa (a group of genetic disorders characterised by extremely fragile skin). The baby was referred to our team for pain management. From birth, the baby experienced severe pain due to extensive blistering and wounds caused by the condition. Oral morphine was initiated for effective analgesia, with dosages carefully titrated according to the child's evolving needs. Over time, with consistent symptom management, wound care, and supportive interventions, the development of new lesions was significantly reduced, and existing lesions were better managed.

Today, the child is thriving at one year of age. Although epidermolysis bullosa remains an incurable condition associated with lifelong morbidity, the ongoing involvement of the palliative care team has helped the family navigate the medical, emotional, and practical challenges that come with such a diagnosis. The case reflects how early palliative involvement can play a crucial role not only in improving quality of life but also in empowering families to provide informed and compassionate care at home.

Processing grief

Very often, there is what we call 'collusion' between the parents and the child — a silent agreement not to talk about the illness directly. Parents try to protect the child from the truth, and the child, sensing the parents' distress, pretends not to know.

In my experience, children cope better than adults when they are spoken to honestly and with sensitivity. They want to know that they are loved and that they will be cared for till the very end. Children are incredibly perceptive — they usually sense when something is wrong with their bodies. When we gently explore their understanding of the illness and provide age-appropriate, truthful information, it helps ease their fear and anxiety. Above all, children want reassurance — that they will not be forgotten, and that they will be missed once they are gone.

Every parent and family copes differently. Our primary role is to communicate clearly, honestly, and compassionately — this allows families to open up and come to terms with their child's condition.

Parents often need reassurance that they have done everything possible for their child. Many just need to hear, "You are good parents." When parents are unable to express themselves or communicate their emotions, they tend to struggle more with grief.

We have also seen that when children and parents are able to talk openly about the illness, both cope far better. Those honest, meaningful conversations — though difficult — often become precious memories later.

Cost of care

Palliative medicine is fundamentally about patient-centred care. It focuses on the needs of both patients and their families, and in doing so, it often helps reduce medical costs — by avoiding unnecessary hospital admissions, futile interventions, and ensuring effective symptom management.

In India, most palliative care is still provided through NGOs and charitable trusts. Sadly, a large number of children never receive palliative support because corporate hospitals have yet to fully integrate such services across the country.

Healthcare is rarely free in private settings, but every hospital — public or private — should have access to palliative care specialists. That will make a significant difference. No patient should be denied comfort and dignity simply because of financial constraints.

Emotional strain

Just like me, most palliative care physicians experience significant emotional strain. Many of our patients are referred late in the course of their illness, with complex needs and limited time left. We deal daily with difficult conversations, ethical dilemmas, and situations where death is imminent. Ideally, every palliative care team should have regular debrief sessions after a patient's death — to reflect on how it affected the team, what went well, and what could be improved. It's essential to acknowledge our emotions and support one another.

Counselling or supervision should absolutely be available for any healthcare professional dealing with end-of-life care.

We are all trained in medical ethics, but the true test is in practicing ethically and compassionately. Good communication skills are vital — no matter which branch of medicine one works in.

Accepting the inevitable

My mind often goes back to a 12-year-old boy with inoperable cardiac disease. He was aware of his condition and so were his parents. But they avoided talking about it believing it would spare the other pain.

When I spoke with the boy, he said he did not want to upset his parents. Meanwhile, his parents were planning to take him to another hospital, thinking they still had time.

After we gently discussed the reality with his father, he finally opened up to his son, embraced him and asked about his last wish. The boy said he wanted to die while offering his daily prayers.

That day, father and son spent every moment together — time that would otherwise have been spent arranging another hospital transfer. The next morning, the boy passed away peacefully during their morning prayer. His father later told us he was deeply grateful for that final day together.

Moments like these remind us that while we cannot always add days to a child's life, we can certainly add life to their days.

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MUSICANA

'The R&B genre feels more versatile and creative'

Bengaluru artiste Rudy talks to Barkha Kumari about her early influences and the big concert ahead

American rock legends Linkin Park are set to perform at Lollapalooza India 2026 in Mumbai this January, as is 22-year-old R&B singer-songwriter Rudy from Bengaluru. "It's crazy! I always wanted to play there," she says, still thrilled about the news.

Her love for English music took root when she was in Class 5. Her older brother introduced her to artistes like Linkin Park. Soon, she was listening to Adele, Katy Perry, and Sia and emulating their vocals. The turning point came with Canadian musician Daniel Caesar, whose lyrics and production opened the door to R&B and hip-hop. "R&B felt more versatile and creative to me. There are so many sounds within the genre. I love variety," she recalls. That love for creative range also draws her to Tyler, the Creator. "He is a great rapper, he directs his own videos, and even has a fashion line. That's the kind of artiste I aspire to be," she explains.

Before English music captured her attention, Rudy spent nearly a decade training in Karnatik music. But she does not plan to blend the two. "I am a purist," she says.

She has released two EPs, and says her sound has grown each time. "In the beginning, I knew nothing about production or the technical side of making music. It was all about resourcefulness. I made my first EP, 'Entropy', on a friend's iPad with a mangled pair of earphones," she shares. It features 'Funny', the first song she wrote at 16 and recorded a year later. On her next EP, 'Broke My Slumber', she had the expert company of producer Kalmi, now known for Hanumankind's global hit 'Big Dawgs'.

They teamed up again last month to release the single 'Love & Limerence'. Rudy has a soft spot for words that sound "nice", a habit she owes to her English tuition teacher. She came across the word limerence through a reel. "It's like an obsession with a person, but it's hard to tell whether you like them or the potential you have imagined for them," she explains.

She says her songwriting comes from a "real place", something she has thought about or experienced. This is evident in 'Broke My Slumber'. '99' is about turning low moments into a song and making money from it. The hook goes: "When my tears touch the ground, they turn into gold. If money buys me happiness, I will monetise my sadness." 'Seats are reserved' is about being picky about people in her life, while 'Bloody rings' digs into harsh self-criticism.

Rudy loves performing live as much as being in the studio. "At concerts, I get to play different versions of my songs. And now that I have a band, the energy is higher," she says.

Rudravajhala Mukta aka Rudy.

130 years of cinema: Thierry Frémaux's ode to Lumière Brothers

'Lumière! The Adventure Continues' compiles 108 restored works that capture a stunning tapestry of life at the dawn of the 20th century, writes N Vidyashankar

The year 2025 marks the 130th anniversary of the Lumière brothers' first public showcase of their Cinématographe on December 28, 1895, in Paris. They showed 10 short films. To commemorate the occasion, Thierry Frémaux, director of the Cannes Film Festival and Institut Lumière released the documentary film 'Lumière! The Adventure Continues' in March.

The documentary is both a celebration and revelation of cinema's origins. It offers audiences a rare chance to witness the artistry of the Lumière Brothers and their collaborators — the visionaries who first turned light into motion. Though often remembered as inventors of the Cinématographe in 1895, Auguste and Louis Lumière were much more: they were poets of the image, pioneers who shaped the grammar of cinema itself.

Curated and narrated by Frémaux, 'Lumière! The Adventure Continues' compiles 108 restored works from 1895 to 1905, each lasting about 50 seconds and lovingly restored from 35mm negatives in 4K. The result is a stunning tapestry of life at the dawn of the 20th century — vivid, intimate, and astonishingly alive.

Organised into themed chapters — childhood, daily life, travel, labour, and comedy — the compilation reveals not only technical innovation but also human warmth that transcends time. Viewers encounter iconic films such as 'Workers Leaving the Factory' and 'The Arrival of a Train at La Ciotat', alongside lesser-known gems like 'The Sprinkler Sprinkled' and tender vignettes of children playing or crowds strolling city streets. The Lumières' ambition to capture the world extended far beyond France; their operators filmed scenes in Jerusalem, Vietnam, and London, creating one of the earliest global visions in cinema.

Auguste and Louis Lumière, the famous Lumière Brothers who invented cinema. PIC: INSTITUT LUMIÈRE

An image from 'The Arrival of a Train at La Ciotat' (1896), one of the first films shot by the Lumière Brothers, features in the tribute film.

Frémaux's commentary balances erudition with humour, illuminating how the camera itself transformed human behaviour — children clowning, passersby waving — revealing cinema as both mirror and performance.

The restoration work is breathtaking. The images shimmer with renewed clarity, reviving the textures of clothing, the gestures of people, and the light of a bygone world. Some early colour sequences astonish with their freshness, breaking the myth of cinema's monochrome beginnings. Watching them today feels like looking through a time window — intimate yet timeless.

More than a history lesson, 'Lumière! The Adventure Continues' is deeply moving. The films pulse with humour, curiosity, and humanity. The famous train still evokes awe; a reel of Vietnamese children chasing the camera still sparks joy. Each short, though brief, brims with invention and surprise.

Ultimately, 'Lumière! The Adventure Continues' reminds us that from its first flicker, cinema was never merely technology — it was art, memory, and wonder. Through Frémaux's loving curation, the Lumière brothers' light continues to shine, guiding us back to the origins of an art form that forever changed how humanity sees itself.

(The author is the artistic director of the Bengaluru International Film Festival)

Will state backed OTT platform click?

Filmmakers and cinephiles weigh in on what it should show and how it should be managed

Natesh Hegde's globally acclaimed Kannada film 'Pedro' did not get a theatre release. No OTT channel has picked it up

PRANATI A S
TEAM SHOWTIME

A ten-member committee is looking into the proposal to launch a government-run OTT platform to promote Kannada films. Headed by the Commissioner of Information and Public Relations Department, it is examining a pioneering initiative in Kerala, a state which launched its own OTT platform in 2024.

Filmmakers and cinephiles *Showtime* spoke to, say a government-run OTT platform could address the concerns of filmmakers in Karnataka.

"Kannada cinema is facing a peculiar problem. In Karnataka, films made in all the south Indian languages and English and Hindi find a market. So the competition is between Kannada filmmakers and the bigwigs of other languages," says Girish Kasaravalli, veteran filmmaker with a body of work spanning five decades and 18 films.

Kerala model

In March 2024, the Kerala government launched the first government backed OTT space. Called CSpace, it was developed by Kerala State Film Development Corporation (KSTDC) to promote Malayalam films with artistic and cultural value.

Creative director and producer Muktha Deedi Chand's film 'John', a tribute to stalwart filmmaker John Abraham, is on the platform. She is worried about its technical glitches.

"CSpace is a great initiative, but the system keeps crashing interrupting the streaming," she says. "The backend team resolves problems quickly, but not everybody has the patience to call them up."

CSpace follows a rental system. Viewers are charged Rs 75 for a film, and the fee allows them to watch it three times. The revenue is shared by the government and the filmmaker on a 50-50 basis. "At the end of the month, the producer's share is deposited in the linked account," says Muktha.

Is the system transparent? "They do give us the credentials to check the dashboard but that hasn't been functioning too well either," she says. She believes shifting to a monthly subscription model might work better for everyone.

Focus questions

Apart from promoting Kannada films, it would be good for a state-run OTT platform to feature good world cinema, cinephiles and filmmakers say.

Vivekananda Kodandaraman, cinephile from Bengaluru, believes that the platform should work towards improving the cinema literacy of the state. "Many TV channels like UTV World Movies used to show foreign language films, and they introduced me to films from different countries. Some OTT platforms now have foreign language films but they are mostly mainstream," he says.

He believes the Karnataka OTT platform can do for the districts what film festivals do for cities. "People complain about film festivals being limited to only Bengaluru. This platform can source foreign language films and add Kannada subtitles," he suggests.

Film critic and curator Christopher Dalton says old Malayalam classics are popular, and could be onboarded on CSpace. "Pirated copies make their way to online spaces in low resolution prints without subtitles. And they have a substantial audience," he says.

"In addition to Kannada, the state should focus on the other languages of Karnataka like Tulu and Kodava-tak," says Samvartha Sahil, who teaches screenwriting at Film and Television Institute of India (FTII), Pune. This will attract diverse audiences who can then be introduced to serious cinema, he reckons.

"Curation is important. If the OTT platform can do what film societies did, then it will be a great initiative. But if it ends up being another Netflix or Amazon Prime... we don't need another," he says.

Who curates them?

Viveka, a cinephile who watches non-mainstream OTT channels such as Mubi, says the danger with a state-backed OTT platform is that it could be used for ruling party propaganda.

"The most important question is, who will run the platform. Is it government officials or filmmakers? If the person heading the platform is answerable to a government official, then it is a problem. It must be independent," he says.

Kasaravalli agrees. "People who are aware of the arts and cinema's social responsibility must be on the curation committee," he says emphasising that meaningful Kannada films must be prioritised.

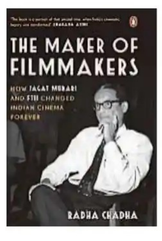
The government has come up with many initiatives to promote Kannada cinema. But they are often misused. The subsidy scheme is a glaring example.

Raj Shetty's next, a literary classic

Kannada author K P Poornachandra Tejaswi's acclaimed novel 'Jugari Cross' will be adapted into a Kannada film. It is being directed by Gurudatha Ganiga and will star Raj B Shetty in the lead role. A promo video was released on Thursday. Tejaswi's 'Jugari Cross' is a suspense thriller that unfolds over 24 hours and follows a farmer couple.

Book on FTII pioneer out

Filmmaker Adoor Gopalakrishnan launched Radha Chadha's book 'The Maker of Filmmakers: How Jagat Murari and FTII Changed Indian Cinema Forever', on Friday at the Film and Television Institute of India, Pune. The book unveils the untold story of Jagat Murari, who played a pioneering role in a number of key film institutions in India, including the FTII, the National Film Archive of India (NFAI), and the Directorate of Film Festivals (DFF). He is known as the man who 'made' Jaya Bachchan, Shabana Azmi, Subhash Ghai, Adoor Gopalakrishnan, Mani Kaul and numerous other filmmakers at FTII. Murari, is known as the man who built FTII from the ground up. Published by Penguin India, the book is written by author Radha, who, as Murari's daughter, grew up on the FTII campus.



MOVIE R | E | V | I | E | W | S

Comedy meets empathy is this deft short

MUKUND SETLUR

★★★★½

Rakkasa
Kannada (YouTube)
Director: G Vishnu
Cast: Avinash Rai, Rohith Baikady, Bhuvan Manipal, Nityananda Shettigar, Prashant Udyavara

Set in a small village in Tulunadu, 'Rakkasa' tells the story of three friends, Pakku, Santu, and Reepu. With modest jobs and fewer aspirations, they find joy in catching and eating crabs from the sea. One night, as they reflect on their aimless lives, they dream of going to Dubai for better prospects.

But reality strikes: 'We will never go to Dubai. We don't have Rs 1.5 lakh to pay the broker. Let us go to a bar instead,' Pakku says. After a few drinks, they come across a poster that they believe could change their lives. According to the poster, the 'best dressed' Rakkasa (demon in Yakshagana) will get a cash prize of Rs 1 lakh. The 38-minute short follows their attempts to win.

One of the challenges short films face on YouTube is the viewer's attention span.

To keep the audiences hooked, director and writer G Vishnu blends wit, humour and empathy. Based on a story by G Raghunandan, it is inspired by real-life characters.

Coastal Karnataka soaks itself in a million colours during Krishnastami and Vittal Pindi. People flock the streets dressed in costumes of Yakshagana, tigers (pili vesha) and freedom fighters.

Three friends dress up as Rakkasas in the film.

The film beautifully captures this by shooting on location, amongst the crowd. It also features non-trained actors except the ones playing lead roles.

In just 38 minutes, the filmmaker brilliantly outlines the characters, establishes an interplay between them, and narrates a compelling story. These aspects are hard to balance within a short runtime, but the crew has made those choices with care. However, there are a few scenes that come across as a forced fit, hindering the film's pace.

The highlight of the film is that it uses poetry and metaphors to make a bold commentary about the country's current state of affairs.

Hard to digest Dahl fare

SWEEKRUTHI K

★★☆☆☆

The Twits
English (Netflix)
Director: Phil Johnston
Cast: Margo Martindale, Johnny Vegas, Natalie Portman

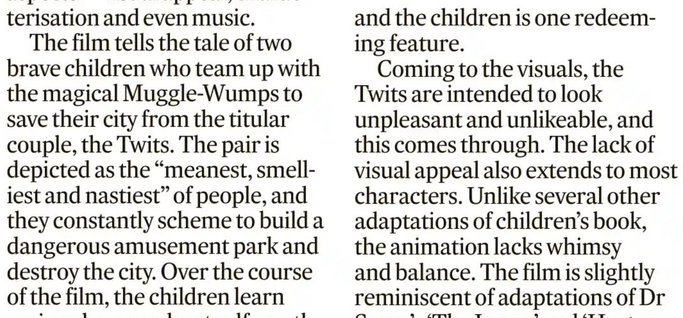
Even for diehard fans of Roald Dahl and those who grew up watching film adaptations of his stories, 'The Twits' (2025) makes for a hard watch. The Netflix adaptation truly fails to pass muster in most aspects — visual appeal, characterisation and even music.

The film tells the tale of two brave children who team up with the magical Muggle-Wumps to save their city from the titular couple, the Twits. The pair is depicted as the "meanest, smelliest and nastiest" of people, and they constantly scheme to build a dangerous amusement park and destroy the city. Over the course of the film, the children learn various lessons about self-worth, empathy and found family. While heartwarming, these values are largely overtaken by the repulsive feeling the Twits leave you with.

The attempt to make them off-putting seems to have gone too far, leaving the viewer uncomfortable. There is a strange mix of toilet humour, name-calling and a very unhealthy relationship dynamic. While Beena and Bubsy, the children, are sweet, the writing fails to bring out memorable personality quirks. The relationship between the Muggle-Wumps and the children is one redeeming feature.

Coming to the visuals, the Twits are intended to look unpleasant and unlikeable, and this comes through. The lack of visual appeal also extends to most characters. Unlike several other adaptations of children's book, the animation lacks whimsy and balance. The film is slightly reminiscent of adaptations of Dr Seuss's 'The Lorax' and 'Horton Hears a Who' — while these films boasted impeccable voice acting and a catchy soundtrack, this one sadly falls flat in those aspects as well.

Like some children's movies tend to do, the story shows children being the wiser, more discerning decision-makers. The adults get swept up by false promises and greed. It also highlights the importance of empathy, even for villains, who may never change. The ultimate moral is worth pausing to consider.



The Twits couple, Credenza and James Twit.

Jitendra Kumar steals the show with his performance.

A crime thriller that trips in court

ANGEL RANI

★★½☆☆

Bhagwat Chapter 1: Raakshas
Hindi (Zee5)
Director: Akshay Shere
Cast: Arshad Warsi, Jitendra Kumar, Ayesha Kaduskar

It begins with the disappearance of a girl in a sleepy town in Uttar Pradesh. Enter cop Vishwas Bhagwat (Arshad Warsi), freshly transferred and emotionally scrambled. Between chasing leads and checking his temper, the officer has his hands full.

The case quickly spirals, as more names are added to the list with each passing day. Finally, you have 19 missing girls, bound by one unknown connection and a common thread — a prostitution racket.

The no-frills build-up holds promise, as the crime thriller prowls shady alleys and traces hundreds of call records. But once it hits the courtroom, all the momentum unravels in a haze of bland legal proceedings.

Warsi's Bhagwat gasps for breath inside the cop's straitjacket, while his 'raakshas' (Jitendra Kumar) roams free with gleeful abandon, stealing scenes.

Bhagwat promises a girl's father he will find her in 15 days. But his adversary, a 'professor' with an elephant's memory and a knack for manipulation, keeps slipping through the cracks. If only the script gave his criminal genius a touch more finesse.

The rusty charm of Robertsganj helps this dark tale, inspired by true events. The film taps into the allure of small-town India to spin a story of love and cruel intentions, but the narrative loses urgency and forgets to keep the viewer hooked.

Heartfelt and layered story of a kabaddi hero

ARUN ANTONY

★★★★½

Bison Kaalamaadan
Tamil (Theatres)
Director: Mari Selvaraj
Cast: Dhruv Vikram, Pashupathy, Rejisha Vijayan

While most Tamil movies discussing caste provide stark and hopelessly bleak images of caste atrocities, 'Bison' stands apart for its optimistic yet hard-hitting narrative. The movie depicts even the vilest villains as compassionate individuals who made difficult choices due to limited options. It shows them as followers of lifelong indoctrination.

At its heart, 'Bison' is a sports drama — loosely based on the life of Arjuna Award-winning Kabaddi player Manathi Ganesan. It follows Kittan, a gifted Kabaddi player from a village in Thoothukudi. There is unrest in Kittan's village owing to caste-based riots and conflicts between a dominant caste politician, Kandasamy (Lal), and a marginalised caste activist, Pandiaraj (Ameer). The story takes a turn when Kittan decides to join Kandasamy's Kabaddi team.

Although the two villains do not hesitate to spill blood, both Pandiaraj and Kandasamy are not stereotypical casteists. They are individuals fighting for what they believe is right. Alongside fury and hate, they also express compassion and human sensibilities — the characters standout for these reasons.

Dhruv Vikram essays the role of a Kabaddi player.

The narrative unfolds against the backdrop of the belief in Kaalamadan, the village deity. Bison, a symbol of endurance and grit, powerfully represents how Kittan eventually earns a selection in the national team.

Dhruv Vikram delivers a career-defining performance as a silent, almost mute Kittan who carries anger, hope and dreams in a village where violence is numbingly routine, even to children.

Rejisha Vijayan's Raji as Kittan's sister stands out — fierce and sensible. Even her stares reveal her internal monologues.

'Bison' is a technically sound film; the only downside is that Kabaddi takes a back seat in a supposed sports drama. A dialogue about fences created by humans — family, caste, religion — that one must carry generation after generation continues to haunt long after.

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Sea The Sun shines brightest

MYSURU RESULTS

Joseph Awale-trained Sea The Sun, ridden by Sai Kiran, won the Governor's Cup, the feature event of the Mysuru races on Friday.

1. Lalithamahal Plate - 1100M: Immortal Beauty (Suraj Narredu) 1; Striking Eyes (Suhas) 2; Fashionista (Pavan) 3; Bourbon Bay (Shreyas Singh) 4; WB: 1-1/4, 3/4, 1-1/2L; T: 1:07.35; TB: Satish Narredu. Fav: Immortal Beauty.

2. BVL-Ladies Circle India Cup - 1200M: City Of Hustle (Hindu Singh) 1; Pearl Of Mysore (Sai Kiran) 2; Alluring Beauty (Antony Raj) 3; Seductive (Imran) 4; WB: 1-3/4, 1/2, 2L; T: 1:13.88; TB: Aditya; K. Fav: Jannat.

3. Alekona Trophy - 1600M: Star Studded (Suraj Narredu) 1; Tiger King (Rahul) 2; Selma (Abhishek Mhatre) 3; Star Honour (Ganesh Shingade) 4; NR: Count Basie; WB: 6-1/2, 1-1/2, 1-3/4L; T: 1:38.14; TB: Rajesh Narredu; Fav: Star Studded.

4. K Thamanna Gowda Memorial Trophy - 1200M: Drisana (Anil Baandal 1); Creative Girl (Faiz) 2; To Hot To Touch (Suhas) 3; Beautiful Bloom (Shreyas Singh) 4; WB: 1-1/4, 2-1/4L, Lnk; T: 1:13.06; TB: JS Pillay; Fav: Drisana.

5. Governor's Cup - 2000M: Sea The Sun (Sai Kiran) 1; Magnetic (Trevor Patel) 2; Freedom Touch (Ashhad Asbar) 3; Saigon (Imran Chisty) 4; WB: 4, 3, 6-1/4L; T: 2:1.07.16; TB: Joseph Awale; Fav: Magnetic.

6. AR Subramanyaraj Urs Memorial Trophy - 1200M: Absolutechallenger (Prabhu Kumar) 1; Gold Kite (Imran Chisty) 2; Grizzly (Afsar Khan) 3; Natural Gold (Ankit Pal) 4; NR: Shershaah & Winter Agenda; WB: 3/4, 3-3/4, 1/2L; T: 1:12.46; TB: Vishal Yadav; Fav: Gold Kite.

7. BVL-Round Table India Cup - 1400M: D Fronx (Salman Khan) 1; El Alamein (Pavan) 2; Chinky Pinky (Aleemuddin) 3; Eco System (Akash Agarwal) 4; WB: 8-1/2, 4, 1/2L; T: 1:24.63; TB: Azhar Ali; Fav: El Alamein.

Bengaluru dividends

I race: Rs 14w; 12, 12, 17p; Fc: Rs 29; Q: Rs 23; Shp: Rs 21; Thp: Rs 30; Tri: Rs 69 & 35; Ex: Rs 149 & 81.
II race: Rs 91w; Rs 16, 11, 16p; Fc: Rs 610; Q: Rs 159; Shp: Rs 25; Thp: Rs 35; Tri: Rs 1,071 & 443; Ex: Rs 9,044 & 5,168.
III race: Rs 11w; 10, 12, 17p; Fc: Rs 33; Q: Rs 35; Shp: Rs 21; Thp: Rs 57; Tri: Rs 202 & 118; Ex: Rs 570 & 234.
IV race: Rs 22w; 12, 14, 26p; Fc: Rs 42; Q: Rs 24; Shp: Rs 29; Thp: Rs 55; Tri: Rs 469 & 252: Ex: Rs 1,406& 283.
V race: Rs 42w; 21, 10p; Fc: Rs 141; Q: Rs 19; Shp: Rs 31; Thp: Rs 30; Tri: Rs 163 & 293; Ex: Rs 930 & 327.
VI race: Rs 90w; 21, 11, 11p; Fc: Rs 352; Q: Rs 142; Shp: Rs 33; Thp: Rs 55; Tri: Rs 780 & 334; Ex: Rs 7,774 & 2,776.
VII race: Rs 37w; 16, 11, 16p; Fc: Rs 156; Q: Rs 47; Shp: Rs 37; Thp: Rs 51; Tri: Rs 228 & 148; Ex: Rs 2,749 & 2,209.
Jackpot: Rs 12,913 (24). **Runner-up:** Rs 810 (164). **I treble:** Rs 302 (21). **II treble:** Rs 3,415 (3).

Paolini, Rybakina stay on course

NINGBO (CHINA), AFP: Jasmine Paolini and Elena Rybakina kept their WTA Finals hopes alive on Friday with contrasting quarter-final wins to set up a high-stakes semifinal showdown at the Ningbo Open.

Second-seeded Paolini battled past Switzerland's Belinda Bencic in a gruelling three-hour 22-minute clash, with a gritty 5-7, 7-5, 6-3 victory to reach her seventh semifinal of the season.

Later, third-seeded Rybakina breezed past Australian qualifier Ajla Tomljanovic 6-2, 6-0 in just 57 minutes.

CRICKET RANJI TROPHY

Saurashtra take lead despite Shreyas special

Leg-spinner claims 8-for but hosts manage to overhaul Karnataka total

BENGALURU, DHNS

The tenth wicket stand of 34 runs between Chetan Sakariya (29) and Yuvrajsinh Dodiya (13 not out) turned out to be a painful thorn in Karnataka's flesh as Saurashtra scraped through to a small four-run lead to pull the first innings honours in their favour despite a brilliant Shreyas Gopal returning with figures of 8/110 in 39.3 overs.

Saurashtra were eventually bowled out for 376 in 121.3 overs in reply to Karnataka's 372, bringing an end to a frustrating period of play for the visitors, where they were made to work hard for the last wicket in their Ranji Trophy opening round clash at the Niranjan Shah Stadium in Rajkot.

Karnataka's Shreyas Gopal dazzled with an 8/110 effort in their Ranji Trophy clash against Saurashtra in Rajkot on Friday. DH FILE PHOTO

Took charge

Having walked back to the dressing room after conceding the lead, Karnataka, in their second innings, began the third and final session of day 3 positively as Nikin Jose took charge of the scoring duties.

Jose (34) hit four fours and a six before Gajjar Sammar drew first blood by pinning him in front in the last ball of the 17th over.

One-drop Devdutt Padikkal (18 not out) joined hands with Mayank Agarwal (31 not out) and the experienced Karnataka duo saw through the last phase of play without any further hiccups, going to stumps on 89/1 in 28 overs, leading Saurashtra by 85 runs.

Earlier in the day, Prerak Mankad (27), who looked solid before the close of play on day 2, was the first of the Saurashtra batters to go, trapped in front of his sticks by Shreyas.

The hosts' hopes of polishing their innings received a boost when Sammar joined Arpit Vasavada in the middle.

The duo stitched a 54-run partnership and drove their team's total into the 290s. Just when the pendulum started to swing towards Saurashtra, they suffered a blow when Shreyas removed Vasavada for 58 to leave the hosts 291/6.

Shreyas, who was causing all the concerns for Saurashtra, picked up another wicket to gift himself a sixth scalp while sending Jadeja back for 12.

Debutant Shikhar Shetty, after a decent day's work alongside the other two spinners, finally opened his wicket column in Ranji Trophy cricket as he hit Jaydev Unadkat's (6) timber.

Shreyas then dismissed the well-set Sammar on 45 to send jitters in the Saurashtra change room, with the hosts still 30 behind with only one wicket in the kitty.

After the fall of the ninth wicket at 342, Sakariya and Dodiya joined hands, defended, found gaps, ran risky singles, survived a run-out shout and then, when the time was right, took on the Karnataka bowlers for a couple of fours and sixes as the score went past 372. Shreyas finally broke the partnership and the final resistance to keep Saurashtra's lead to four. But the damage was done.

SCOREBOARD

KARNATAKA (I Innings): 372 all out
SAURASHTRA (I Innings, O/n: 200/4): Harvik Desai lbw Mohsin 41, Chirag Jani b Shreyas 90, Jay Gohil c&b Shreyas 3, Arpit Vasavada lbw Gopal 58, Ansh Gosai c Smaran b Shreyas 19, Prerak Mankad lbw Shreyas 27, Sammar Gajjar st Shrijith b Shreyas 45, Dharmendrasinh Jadeja c Venkatesh b Shreyas 10, Jaydev Unadkat b Shikhar 6, Chetan Sakariya lbw Shreyas 29, Yuvrajsinh Dodiya (not out) 13. Extras (B-13, LB-16, NB-1, pen 5) 35. **TOTAL (all out, 121.3 overs) 376.**
Fall of wickets: 1-140 (Desai), 2-148 (Jani), 3-151 (Gohil), 4-171 (Gosai), 5-273 (Mankad), 6-291 (Vasavada), 7-311 (Jadeja), 8-318 (Unadkat), 9-342 (Gajjar).
Bowling: Abhilash Shetty 12-4-24-0, M Venkatesh 12-3-34-0, Shikhar Shetty 24-3-81-1, Shreyas Gopal 39.3-7-110-8, Mohsin Khan 34-1-90-1.

KARNATAKA (II Innings): Nikin Jose lbw Sammar 34, Mayank Agarwal (batting) 31, Devdutt Padikkal (batting) 18. Extras (B-4, LB-2) 6. **TOTAL (for 1 wkt, 28 overs) 89.**
Fall of wicket: 1-52 (Jose).
Bowling: Dharmendrasinh Jadeja 10-4-15-0, Jaydev Unadkat 5-0-16-0, Yuvrajsinh Dodiya 6-0-26-0, Chetan Sakariya 3-0-8-0, Sammar Gajjar 4-0-18-1.

Other Group B brief scores: At Thiruvananthapuram: Maharashtra: 239 & 51/0 in 9 overs (Prithvi Shaw 37 n.o.) vs Kerala (O/n: 35/3): 219 all out in 63.2 overs (Rohan Kunnummal 27, Sanju Samson 54, Mohammed Azharuddeen 36, Salman Nazir 49; Mukesh Choudhary 2-57, Rajneesh Gurbani 2-49, Jalaj Saxena 3-46, Vicky Ostwal 2-25).
At Porvorim: Goa: 566 vs Chandigarh (O/n: 34/1): 137 all out in 53.3 overs (Bhagmender Lather 27, Jagjit Singh 31; Darshan Misal 3-27, Lalit Yadav 3-17) & (f/o) 159/3 in 40 overs (Arjun Azad 76 n.o., Bhagmender Lather 38, Ankit Kaushik 38 n.o.).
At Indore: Punjab: 232 & Madhya Pradesh (O/n: 305/6): 519/8 in 146 overs (Himanshu Mantri 40, Shubham Sharma 41, Rajat Patidar 205 n.o., Venkatesh Iyer 73, Saransh Jain 30, Sagar Solanki 26, Arshad Khan 60 n.o.; Naman Dhir 3-110, Prerit Dutta 4-145).

Prakhar's double ton takes K'taka U-23 to big total

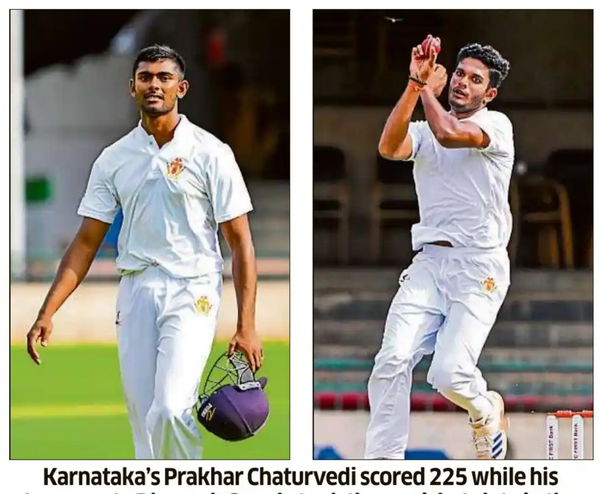
Dhanush takes 3 to leave Railways struggling at 83/3

BENGALURU, DHNS

Prakhar Chaturvedi scored a stunning double hundred to take Karnataka U-23 to a mammoth total of 529/7 declared against Railways on day 2 of the elite group match of the Colonel CK Nayudu Trophy at the M Chinnaswamy stadium here on Friday.

Pacer Dhanush Gowda (3/17) further strengthened Karnataka's position with three quick wickets as Railways found themselves trailing by 447 runs at stumps with mere 83 runs on the board.

Earlier, Chaturvedi scored a 225 (31 fours and three sixes) while forging a 283-run opening-wicket stand with centurion Jasper EJ (105 runs, 17 fours) while the duo batted for the majority of the opening day. Garv Sangwan faced the wrath of the two openers the most as he was taken for 46 runs in 5 overs, including a 14-run over in the first session on day 1.



Karnataka's Prakhar Chaturvedi scored 225 while his team-mate Dhanush Gowda took three wickets late in the day for further the advantage against Railways on day 2 in Bengaluru on Friday. DH PHOTO/ KRISHNAKUMAR PS

Jasper eventually fell late on Day 1 and was soon joined by Samit Dravid, who could only score but his dismissal brought no respite for Railways bowlers as Karthikeya KP (56) kept the scoreboard moving while allowing Prakar to complete his double ton without much fuss. Prakar and Karthikeya forged a 108-run stand before falling in a quick interval to Jani Basha (3/83) and Virat Jaiswal (2/63).

No. 6 Dhruv Prabhakar (53 not out) then had two 50-odd runs stands with skipper Aneeshwar Gautam (38) and wicketkeeper Sanjay Ashwin (23), allowing Karnataka to reach 529/7 before declaration.

In response, Railways' top-order came a cropper before stumps as Dhanush removed Anchit Yadav (2), skipper Ansh Yadav (6) and Eshaan Goyal (5) by the 13th over with just 16 runs on the board.

Brief scores: Karnataka: 529/7 decl in 135.4 overs (Jasper EJ 105, Prakar Chaturvedi 225, Karthikeya KP 56, Dhruv Prabhakar 53 n.o., Aneeshwar Gautam 38; SK Jani Basha 3-83, Virat Jaiswal 2-63) vs Railways: 82/3 in 36 overs (Garv Sangwan 41 n.o., Abhishek Kaushal 27 n.o.; Dhanush Gowda 3-17)

Shantha 1st women ICA chief

NEW DELHI, PTI: Former India women's team captain Shantha Rangaswamy (**in pic**) was elected as president of the Indian Cricketers' Association (ICA) while former Delhi opener Venkat Sundaram was named secretary.

Deepak Jain is the treasurer while member representatives are Jyoti Thatte and Santhosh Subramoniam. The ICA Board nominated former women's team skippers Sudha Shah and Shubhangi Kulkarni as its representatives in the BCCI Apex Council and IPL Governing Council. The male representative to the BCCI Apex Council is V Chamundeswara Nath, aka Chamundi from Hyderabad Cricket Association.

"This election marks a notable moment for the ICA, with two women now serving on the ICA Board, and for the first time, a female president and a female nominee to the IPL Governing Council - reflecting the Association's commitment to inclusive representation and progressive leadership," a release stated.

India U-17 women sparkle

BISHKEK (KYRGYZ REPUBLIC), PTI: The Indian football team produced a remarkable comeback to beat Uzbekistan 2-1 and secure a maiden qualification to the AFC U-17 Women's Asian Cup here on Friday.

Substitute Thandamoni Baskey equalised in the 55th minute, before setting up Anushka Kumari in the 66th to help India take lead. Earlier, Shakhzoda Alikhonova had put Uzbekistan in the lead in the 38th minute.

Women's T20 Trophy: Karnataka suffer their first defeat

BENGALURU, DHNS: Karnataka fluffed the lines for the first time as they crashed to a seven-wicket defeat against Chhattisgarh in their Elite Group C Senior Women's T20 Trophy at the Captain Roop Singh Stadium in Gwalior on Friday.

Barring a 26 from opener Vrinda Dinesh and a 28 from one-drop Niki Prasad none of the other Karnataka batters could make any impact as they were restricted to 103/9 in 20 overs.

There were as many as six single-digit scores with two of them being ducks.

Chhattisgarh then coasted home in just 17.4 overs, opener Neha Badwaik smashing a 52-ball 62, a knock that was studded with eight boundaries and two sixes.

Karnataka dropped to second in the table with 20 points from six games, ahead of Chhattisgarh (20) on superior net run rate. Karnataka are ahead with 1.249 as compared to Chhattisgarh's 1.140.

Brief scores: Karnataka: 103/9 in 20 overs (Vrinda Dinesh 26, Niki Prasad 28; Mahak Narwase 2-12, Priti Yadav 3-22) lt to Chhattisgarh: 105/3 in 17.4 overs (Neha Badwaik 62 n.o.).

Krishik M (top centre) poses with the gold medal after winning the 110m hurdles final in Hanamkonda on Friday.

Krishik clears hurdles for gold

BENGALURU, DHNS

Karnataka hurdler Krishik M clocked 13.84 seconds in the men's 110m hurdles final to clinch the state's first gold medal at the Indian Open U-23 athletics competition in Hanamkonda (Telangana) on Friday. It was a rich medal day for Karnataka athletes as a further four medals (three silver and a bronze) were won on the day.

Krishik, who was picked for the SAFF athletics championships the other day, dominated the hurdles final, leaving behind Kerala's Raheel Sakeer (13.98), who took the silver. This was the second hurdles medal for Karnataka as Shreeya Rajesh (13.894s) took the bronze in the women's 100m hurdles in a close battle for the silver spot with Tamil Nadu's Akschi Das (13.891).

The remaining three silver on the day were claimed by high jumper Sudeep (2.11m), discus thrower Nagendra Annappa (52.48m) and 400m runner Priya Mohan (54.71s). Karnataka's medal haul surges to seven with a silver and a bronze from the opening day.

Results: Men: 110m hurdles: Krishik M (IOCL) 13.84s, 1; Raheel Sakeer VP (Ker) 13.98, 2; Rathish Duhish (Rel) 14.12, 3.
High jump: Shiv Bhagwan (Har) 2.13m, 1; Sudeep (Kar) 2.11, 2; Asraf Ali (Rail) 2.11, 3.
Discus throw: Ujjawal (JSW) 53.60m, 1; Nagendra Annappa (Kar) 52.48, 2; Ritik (NCOE) 52.37, 3.
Women: 100m hurdles: Pranjali Patil (JSW) 13.73s, 1; Akschi Das (TN) 13.891, 2; Shreeya Rajesh (Kar) 13.894, 3.
400m: Aayushi (UP) 53.62s, 1; Priya (Kar) 54.71, 2; Sandramol Sabu (NCOE) 55.00, 3.

Karnataka colts directly qualify for quarters

BENGALURU, DHNS: Karnataka posted a crucial 15-run victory over Chhattisgarh to directly qualify for the quarterfinals of the Vinoo Mankad Trophy under-19 tournament in Dehradun on Friday.

Defending a total of 247 in their last Group D match, Karnataka bowlers bundled out Chhattisgarh for 231 with three balls to spare as Kuldeep Singh Purohit (3-35), Siddharth Akhil (2-31) and Manikanth Shivanand (2-49) took wickets at regular intervals.

It was a must-win game for Karnataka who were placed third before the toss, while Chhattisgarh were at second with a superior net run rate. The victory was enough to put them second on the table while their NRR improved to +1.028, making them the top second-placed team in all five groups, paving their way for qualification.

Group D toppers Hyderabad, who thrashed Himachal by 229 runs in their last group match, also qualified directly along with the rest of the four group toppers. Meanwhile, the remaining four second-placed teams will face off in the pre-quarters on October 25 in Rajkot, followed by quarterfinals on October 27.

Meanwhile, the Karnataka match saw their top-order struggle once again as four of them fell inside the first 10 overs with mere 61 runs on the board after opting to bat first. Opener Nitish Arya, then scored a patient half-century (59 runs off 83 balls) in an innings-reviving 78-run stand with Rehan Mohammed (42 off 82).

The duo, however, fell in quick succession, leaving the heavy-hitting to tailenders Akshath Prabhakar (35 not out off 33) and Vaibhav Sharma (26 not out off 23), who took the total to 246/7 in 50 overs. They had an unbeaten partnership of 56 runs.

Brief scores: Karnataka: 246/7 in 50 overs (Nitish Arya 59, Rehan Mohammed 42, Vaibhav C 27, Akshath Prabhakar 35 n.o., Vaibhav Sharma 26 n.o.; Dhananjay Nayak 2-25, Aditya Agarwal 2-46) bt Chhattisgarh: 231 all out in 49.3 overs (B Balaji Rao 61, Yash Kumar Varda 46, Krishna Taunk 47; Sidharth Akhil 2-31, Manikanth Shivanand 2-49, Kuldeep Singh Purohit 3-35).

Nikhil scores brace

BENGALURU, DHNS

Nikhil Raj Murugesh Kumar scored a brace as FC Bengaluru United stunned Bengaluru FC 3-0 in the KSFA Super Division League Championship at the Bangalore Football Stadium here on Friday.

LOCAL FOOTBALL

Nikhil stroked FCBU ahead in the 27th minute after which the game became a bit tight. BFC colts tried hard for the equaliser while FCBU searched for the second goal that would give them some breathing space. Nikhil doubled the advantage for FCBU in the 72nd minute before Lijo confirmed a resounding win with a goal in the 81st minute.

The league takes a three-day rest from Saturday to Monday before resuming on Tuesday with the big clash between defending champions FC Agniputhra and runner-up Kickstart FC.

Results: MEG & Centre FC: 1 (Sarat Narayanan 7th) bt Rebels FC: 0; ASC & Centre FC: 4 (Vivek Sheel Hemrom 6th, Maitshaphang Nengnong 21st, Adil Abbas AK 57th, Nelson Lalng Henchhana 83rd) bt Bangalore Dream United FC: 2 (K Lalrinfela 47th, 72nd); FCBU:: 3 (Nikhil Raj Murugesh Kumar 27th, 72nd, Lijo K 81st) bt Bengaluru FC: 0.

Bangalore Dream United's goalkeeper Yuvanshankar (left) attempts to stop ASC's Vivekseel Hemrom from scoring at Bangalore Football Stadium. DH PHOTO/ BK JANARDHAN

Government of Karnataka
BENGALURU URBAN ZILLA PANCHAYATH
O/o Executive Engineer, Panchayath Raj Engineering Division
First Floor, Zilla Panchayat Building, S. Kariyappa Road,
Banashankari (Near Banashankari Temple) Bengaluru-560070.
No.EE/PRED/BNG(U)/TND/JE-1/22/2025-26 Dated: 15.10.2025
SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATON
KPPP Tender Notice, Single Cover System
Tenders are invited through KPPP Portal by the Executive Engineer, P.R.E.D. Bangalore Urban, For Different Head of account under ZP Grants and Deposit Grants Works. The work details can obtained from the KPPP Web Site The Tender Documents can be obtained and submitted on or before **Dated: 24.10.2025 upto 4.00 pm**. Further details can be obtained from web site at **http://www.KPPP.karnataka.gov.in** or contact this office during office working hours.
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No. Out Source/51/2025-26/ Date: 04.10.2025
TENDER NOTIFICATION
Sub: Invitation of Tender for providing of Manpower services on out-source basis for various Group 'D' (Cleaning) vacant posts at Mysore Medical College and Research Institute, Mysuru.
The Tender has been invited as per Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurements Act 1999 for providing of Manpower services on out-source basis for the various Group 'D' (Cleaning) vacant posts at Mysore Medical College and Research Institute, Mysuru and associated hospitals. The Tender documents may be downloaded from E-procurement website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** from **16.10.2025** and last date for submission of Tenders through E-procurement website is **15.11.2025** upto **5.00 PM.** Those tenders which are not submitted with E.M.D. will be rejected. If, the last date for submission of Tender treated as holiday, the next working day will be considered as last date. No Notification in this regard will be announced
Sd/- Director and Dean
Mysore Medical College and Research Institute, Mysore
DIPR/MYSORE/SHIRDISAI/1095/2025-26

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No: HFWD/EW/CE/TA-1,2&3/AE-1&8/TND/15th Finance & PM-ABHIM/2025-26/2354 Date: 17.10.2025
SHORT-TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
The Chief Engineer, HFWD, Engineering Wing, Bengaluru invites Short -Term tender from eligible contractors registered in KPWD in two tender document system in KPP Protal for **15th Finance** Works - approximate total project cost is **Rs. 6215.50 lakhs, & PM-ABHIM** Works - approximate total project cost is **Rs. 2797.10 lakhs, Refer KPP Portal for further details.**
Calendar of Events: (1) Last date for receipt of tenders: **04.11.2025 up to 16.00 hrs. (2)** Date of Opening of Tenders (Technical Bids): **05.11.2025 at 16.01 hrs.**
The tender details can be downloaded from the KPP Platform. Tenders shall be submitted electronically at **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** and Tender Processing Fee shall also be paid electronically. Interested eligible contractors shall register on the KPP Platform to participate in this tender.
NOTE: (1) All the rights are reserved by the undersigned for postponement or cancellation of entire tender process, rejection of bids/individual bid etc., without assigning any reason. **(2)** Henceforth, any changes in the schedule/contents will not be published through newspapers and further changes will be updated only on KPP Portal.
Sd/- Chief Engineer, H&FWD, Engineering Wing, Bengaluru.

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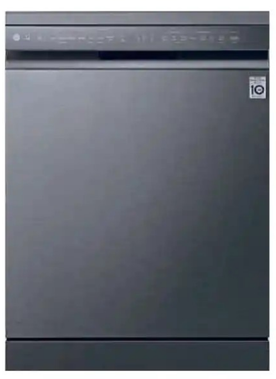

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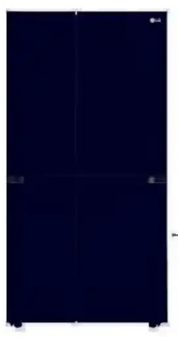

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IN BRIEF

Manoj winner makes the difference

▸ Pruthvi Raj GN scored a hat-trick but it was teammate Manoj's last-gasp goal that made the difference as Canara Bank edged out Karnataka State Police 7-6 in a cracking Hockey Karnataka League Championship on Friday, reports DHNS.

Results: Canara Bank: 7 (Vinaya VS 1st, Pruthvi Raj GN 5th, 52nd, 56th, Likhith BM 46th 50th, Manoj 60th min) bt Karnataka State Police: 6 (Prajwal CK 12th, 14th, Vasanth Kumar 18th, 41st, Prajwal Bijwad 39th, 51st); Sports Authority of India STC: 12 (Metta Sai Kumar 5th, 9th, 18th, Hrithik Aitappa KD 7th, 48th, 58th, Suprith G 13th, 56th, Nakul Malnad 14th, 59th, Pavan KJ 36th, Rakesh M 47th) bt Dept of Youth Empowerment & Sports, Ballari: 0.

VSPS win three titles

▸ Vidya Soudha Public School, Peenya, won three of the four titles in the 11th AGI State-level Inter-school Volleyball Championship for boys and girls in Bengaluru, reports DHNS.

Results (All finals, boys): U-10: Vidya Soudha Public School, Peenya bt Kensri School Bangalore: 2-1 (15-8, 12-15, 16-14). **Best PoT**: Gowtham (VSPS).
U-12 boys: Kensri School Won bt Vidya Soudha Public School: 2-1 (12-15, 15-13, 12-15). **Best PoT**: Dhanush (VSPS).
U-10 girls: Vidya Soudha Public School, Peenya bt Kensri School Bangalore: 2-0 (15-11, 15-8). **Best PoT**: Keerthani (VSPS).
U-14: Vidya Soudha Public School bt Ashok International Public School: 2-1 (15-11, 8-15, 15-11). **Best PoT**: Deeksha (VSPS).

Anahat in Boston quarters

▸ Reigning women's national champion Anahat Singh completed a fine win over American Charlotte Sze to progress to the quarterfinals of the Boston Open, a USD 15,000 PSA Challenger event, reports PTI from New Delhi.

The world No. 45 and second seed defeated local challenger Sze 11-4, 11-6, 9-11, 11-8 in the round-of-16 match on Thursday after receiving a first-round bye. The Delhi teenager will next meet Egyptian eighth seed Jana Swaify in the event taking place in Boston.

India beat Malaysia 2-1

▸ India defeated hosts Malaysia 2-1 in their last group game to progress to the final of the Sultan of Johor Cup junior men's hockey tournament on Friday, reports PTI from Johor Bahru.

India converted two penalty corners through Gurjot Singh (22nd minute) and Sourabh Anand Kushwaha (48th) to set up a summit clash against Australia on Saturday.

◆ ON TV ◆

CRICKET

Women's WC: New Zealand vs Pakistan **(1 pm)**. **LIVE** on **Star Sports 1** & **JioHotstar.**

Ranji Trophy: Kerala vs Maharashtra, Gujarat vs Assam, Saurashtra vs Karnataka Day 4 **(9:30 am)**. **LIVE** on **Star Sports Khel, JioHotstar.**

BADMINTON

Denmark Open: Semifinals **(12:30 pm)**. **LIVE** on **Star Sports Select 2 & JioHotstar.**

FOOTBALL

EPL: Nottingham Forest vs Chelsea **(5 pm)**; Manchester City vs Everton, Crystal Palace vs Bournemouth, Brighton vs Newcastle, Burnley vs Leeds United, Sunderland vs Wolves **(7:30 pm)**; Fulham vs Arsenal **(10 pm)**. **LIVE** on **Star Sports Network & JioHotstar.**

La Liga: Sevilla vs Mallorca **(5:30 pm)**; Barcelona vs Girona **(7:45 pm)**; Villareal vs Real Betis **(10 pm)**. **LIVE** on **FanCode.**

KABADDI

PKL: Bengaluru Bulls vs Dabang Delhi KC **(7:30 pm)**; Telugu Titans vs Puneri Paltan **(8:30 pm)**. **LIVE** on **Star Sports 1** & **JioHotstar.**

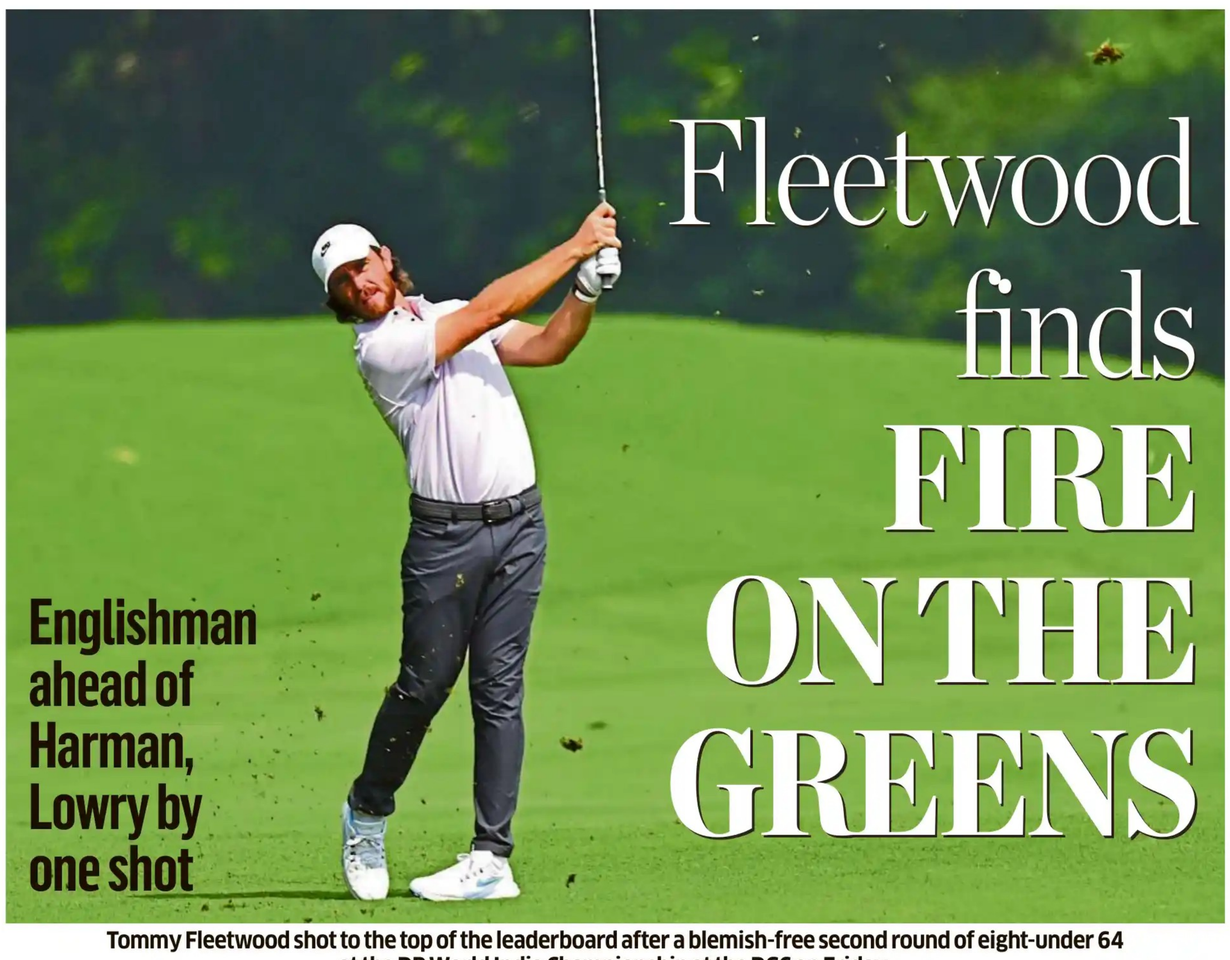
GOLF

DP World India Championships: Day 3 **(12 noon)**. **LIVE** on **FanCode.**

FORMULA ONE

US GP: Sprint Race **(10:30 pm)**. **LIVE** on **FanCode.**

GOLF DP WORLD INDIA CHAMPIONSHIPS



Fleetwood finds FIRE ON THE GREENS

Englishman ahead of Harman, Lowry by one shot

Tommy Fleetwood shot to the top of the leaderboard after a blemish-free second round of eight-under 64 at the DP World India Championship at the DGC on Friday.

HITA PRAKASH
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Some crisp hitting off the tee, smoother rolls on the green for putts and accurate approach shots in between saw Tommy Fleetwood enjoy a better outing on Friday.

The 34-year-old Englishman, who had a morning start from 10th hole, followed up his opening round four-under 68 with an eight-under 64 to take his two-day total to 12-under 132 and the lead at the DP World India Championship.

The rollercoaster ride he had the previous day, especially on the back nine, was replaced by a steady stroll for Fleetwood to walk off the course with eight birdies and 10 pars.

"I hit it in the fairway a lot today and gave myself some chances with irons," said the world No. 5 at the end of his play. "It's easy talking about how many things you did well when you shot 8-under, but yeah, a really good round of golf."

To put his round into perspective, Fleetwood hit the fairway on 10 holes, missed to land it on the semi rough and rough twice each - which is still mostly trouble-free here. He made 15 regulations out of 18 holes and spent less time on the greens by making a mere 26 putts.

Lying a shot behind Fleetwood was his playing partner and overnight leader Shane Lowry of Ireland and Brian Harman of USA. Lowry, following his day one heroics of eight-under 64, could only manage a three-under 69 while Harman clawed his way to the tied-second spot by adding a seven-under 65 to his first day score of 68. The free-swinging Japanese Keita Nakajima is two shots behind the leader at fourth (65, 69).

The cut fell at two-under and 66 out of the 138 golfers safely moved into the weekend rounds. And yes, the biggest crowd puller of this week, world No.2 and five-time Major champion Rory McIlroy, will also have a go at the course for two more days.

However, the Irishman's discomfort of tackling the challenging course was evident. Reduced to two-under after two back-to-back bogeys on the 11th and 12th holes, McIlroy appeared to be walking on a tight rope. Realising that he needed to be sharper, the reigning Masters champion re-focused to shoot four birdies in the final six holes to finish with a second consecutive three-under to lie tied-17 along with his groupmate Viktor Hovland (71, 67).

Five-time Major champion Rory McIlroy (top) struggled but scored a second consecutive three-under to lie T-17th while overnight leader and 2019 Open Championship winner Shane Lowry is T-2nd at the halfway mark. AFP/ REUTERS

Shubhankar fights back

For the Indian fans praying for the home boys to shine, Shubhankar Sharma put up a brave show to fight back from a disappointing opening round.

The 29-year-old from Delhi carded a blemish-free six-under 66 that is sure to help him put the two-over 74 behind him. With a two-day total of four-under, Shubhankar is at tied-32 as the top Indian in the field.

The other home star, Anirban Lahiri's struggles continued on Friday too as the 38-year-old held on to card one-under 71 and stay at the tied-41 position.

The other Indians to make the cut were Shiv Kapur (tied-41), Dhruv Sheoron (tied-41) and Abhinav Lohan (tied-58).

Scores (after 36 holes): 132: Tommy Fleetwood (Ire, 68, 64); **133:** Brian Harman (USA, 68, 65), Shane Lowry (Ire, 64, 69); **134:** Keit Nakajima (Jpn, 65, 69); **135:** Joost Luien (Ned, 68, 67), Brandon Robinson Thompson (Eng, 69, 66).

'DP World India here for the long haul'

HITA PRAKASH
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The DP World India Championship is serving twin purposes. While the event, with a total prize money of $4 million, is showcasing India as one of potential golfing destinations to the world, it's also an exhibition of a niche sport in the country at a scale never seen before.

This was the main goal behind bringing the big tournament here, and the idea do to so germinated about a year-and-a-half ago, said **Yuvraj Narayan**, the Group Deputy CEO and Chief Financial Officer of DP World.

With some of the top golfers such as Rory McIlroy, Tommy Fleetwood, Shane Lowry, Brian Harman and Ben Griffin -- besides 26 local players -- in action, the buzz for a golf competition has never been this loud. Narayan shares his thoughts on the future and expansion of the event with. Excerpts.

How important was it to get big names for the first time in India?
I observed that nobody watched golf tournaments hosted in India.
It was hardly covered.
You didn't have the best players so there was no interest generated. There was no hype. I mean, you may have very good marketing but if you don't have a good product it's not going to work. Now, some of the world's best players are playing in Delhi. And it is for everyone to see.
When have you felt such a buzz for golf before?

Will this become a permanent event on the calendar from now on?
We don't think short term. And we are here for the long haul. So yes, it will be a regular event.

Will the event be taken to various venues across India?
Well, three years on this course. When the tour moves to a particular place it needs a certain kind of infrastructure and ambience available. Other logistics such as hotels being close by because you cannot make thousands of people travel for two hours to get to the course. So maybe this tournament will remain a bit restricted to the main cities.

Did you have to convince guys like Rory McIlroy, Tommy Fleetwood, Shane Lowry and the other stars to come?
Today's players are very smart. At the end of the day, they are all a part of a tour. Again, if we have got a huge interest here in terms of connecting the country to the world, we better make sure the best tournament with big players happens in India. I want to bring Formula 1 back to India. (DP World is the official partner and logistics provider for the McLaren Formula 1 team).

Yuvraj Narayan

How will an event of this magnitude help Indian golf?
I have seen and met a lot of our young golfers and they don't have the means. We want to create a system here where the means become available. There is no shortage of money in India. In 10 years from now, we want 10 Indian golfers in the top-50 on the DP World Tour. So we might do something with PGTI, maybe help them host five or six events in different cities in India to try and encourage golf at the grassroot level. The IPL is a phenomenal example. And see what IPL has done for Indian cricket.

FOR MORE SPORTS SEE PAGE 18

Bavuma in South Africa 'A' squad for India tour

JOHANNESBURG, PTI: South Africa's Test captain Temba Bavuma has been named in the country's A squad for a tour of India later this month to get a hang of the conditions before the two-match Test series starting November 14.

Bavuma, who is nursing a calf injury, missed the ongoing Test series against Pakistan and was left out of the squad for the ODI rubber that will follow to allow him time to recover fully. Bavuma's inclusion in the A squad will not just help him ease back into the squad but also get acclimatised to Indian conditions before the Test series against Shubman Gill and his men.

The two four-day games will be held at the BCCI Centre of Excellence in Bengaluru from October 30 to November 9. South Africa A will also play three one-day matches against India A in Rajkot from November 13 to 19.

SA 'A' squad for unofficial Tests: Marques Ackerman, Temba Bavuma, Okuhle Cele, Zubayr Hamza, Jordan Hermann, Rubin Hermann, Rivaldo Moonsamy, Tshepo Moreki, Mihlali Mpongwana, Lesego Senokwane, Prenelan Subrayen, Kyle Simmonds, Tsepo Ndwandwa, Jason Smith, Tiaan van Vuuren, and Codi Yusuf.

Labuschagne replaces Green

PERTH, PTI: Marnus Labuschagne on Friday replaced injured all-rounder Cameron Green for the three-match ODI series beginning here on Sunday.

Green will miss the series due to side soreness, with the selectors not ready to take a chance ahead of the Ashes beginning next month.

"Green will complete a short period of rehabilitation and is tracking to return to play in round three of the Sheffield Shield to continue his preparation for the Ashes," Cricket Australia said in a statement suggesting that Green not playing the ODIs is a precautionary step.

Australia's revised squad: Mitchell Marsh (c), Xavier Bartlett, Cooper Connolly, Ben Dwarshuis, Nathan Ellis, Josh Hazlewood, Travis Head, Matthew Kuhnemann, Marnus Labuschagne, Mitchell Owen, Josh Philippe, Matthew Renshaw, Matthew Short, Mitchell Starc. Second ODI onwards: Adam Zampa, Alex Carey, Josh Inglis.

Zoravar Singh Sandhu. ISSF

Veteran Zoravar clinches trap bronze

NEW DELHI, PTI: Veteran Indian trap shooter Zoravar Singh Sandhu's nearly three-decade-long toil bore fruit when he won his maiden ISSF World Championships (Shotgun) bronze medal here on Friday. The medal helped India open its account in the prestigious tournament.

The 48-year-old marksman, who has trained all his life at the Dr Karni Singh Ranges in New Delhi, first in skeet and then in trap, shot impressively on the third and final day of trap competition to finish with a score of 31 in the six-shooter final. Croatia's Josip Glasnovic (44) took the gold, while Andres Garcia of Spain (39) bagged the silver.

Sandhu, a multiple-time national champion and winner of two World Cup medals, had fired two perfect rounds of 25 each on Thursday to rise to second on the qualification leaderboard with a score of 99/100. The Delhi-based marksman shot another 23/25 in the fifth and final qualification round to aggregated 122/125. The score helped him finish sixth in qualification and enter the medal round.

South Africa hammer SL to inch closer to semis

COLOMBO, PTI: Openers Laura Wolvaardt and Tazmin Brits struck unbeaten half-centuries as South Africa dished out a thoroughly professional performance to outplay Sri Lanka by 10 wickets in a rain-curtailed game and inch closer to the semi-finals of the Women's World Cup here on Friday.

Set a target of 121 under the Duckworth-Lewis-Stern (DLS) method after the match was reduced to a 20-overs-a-side contest following a rain interruption of more than five hours, South Africa rode on Wolvaardt's 47-ball 60 not out and Tazmin Brits's 55 not out to complete the chase with as many as 31 deliveries to spare.

Brits finished the game with a flat six over midwicket, reflecting their dominance. South Africa reached 125 for no loss in 14.5 overs.

This was after left-arm spinner Nonkululeko Mlaba (3/30) bowled brilliantly with a ball that was wet and slippery to stop Sri Lanka at 105 for seven after young Vishmi Gunaratne's breezy 33-ball 34. The target for South Africa was revised after using the DLS method for calculation, but keeping the conditions in mind, it was always going to be an uphill task for the Sri Lanka bowling unit to stop their opponents, who also boast a long batting line-up.

Wolvaardt and Tazmin meant business as they scored at a brisk pace to put pressure on the Sri Lankan bowlers.

Brief scores: Sri Lanka: 105/7 in 20 overs (Vishmi Gunaratne 34; Masabata Klaas 2-18, Nonkululeko Mlaba 3-30) lt to South Africa: 125/0 in 14.5 overs (Laura Wolvaardt 60 n.o., Tazmin Brits 55 n.o.) by 10 wkts via DLS method.
PoM: Laura Wolvaardt.
Today's match: New Zealand vs Pakistan (3 pm).

South Africa's captain Laura Wolvaardt hit an unbeaten 60 in her side's win over Sri Lanka on Friday. AFP

Satwik-Chirag in semis, Lakshya out

Star Indian men's doubles pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty (both in pic) advanced to the semifinals, while Lakshya Sen lost his men's singles quarterfinal match in straight games at the Denmark Open Super 750 badminton tournament in Ondense on Friday.

The Indian doubles pair, winners of the BWF World Championships bronze medal earlier this year, beat the unseeded Indonesian duo of Muhammad Rian Ardianto and Rahmat Hidayat 21-15, 18-21, 21-16 in a hard-fought quarterfinal that lasted 65 minutes.

Lakshya, who had stunned World No. 2 and local favourite Anders Antonsen in straight games on Thursday, looked jaded as he went down to seventh-seeded Frenchman Alex Lanier 9-21, 14-21 tamely in 44 minutes.

Tanvi confirms medal to end 17-year drought

GUWAHATI, PTI

Tanvi Sharma became the first Indian to secure a BWF World Junior Championships medal in 17 years when she fought back from a game down to beat Japan's Saki Matsumoto and reach the girls' singles semifinals here on Friday.

The 16-year-old kept her nerves under pressure and found winners with her cross-court slice hits to beat Matsumoto 13-15, 15-9, 15-10 in a 47-minute quarterfinal clash that kept the spectators on edge at the National Centre of Excellence.

However, eighth seed Unnati Hooda, the youngest Indian to win a Super 100 title at the 2022 Odisha Open and a member of India's 2022 Uber Cup squad, bowed out after going down 12-15, 13-15 to second seed Anyapat Phichitphon of Thailand in a 32-minute quarterfinal, missing out on a medal. India's mixed doubles pair of Bhavya Chhabra and Vishakha Toppo also ended their campaign in the last-eight stage, losing 9-15, 7-15 to the Chinese Taipei duo of Hung Bing Fu and Chou Yun An.

The last Indian female player to win a world junior medal was Saina Nehwal, who bagged the gold medal in the 2008 edition in Pune.

India's Tanvi Sharma returns during her win over Japan's Saki Matsumoto in the quarterfinals of the BWF World Junior Championships in Guwahati on Friday. PTI

Saina, who had also won a silver medal in 2006, and Aparna Popat (1996 silver) are the only other Indian female players to stand on the podium in the history of the competition.

Top-seeded Tanvi, who had also bagged a bronze medal in the Badminton Asia Junior Championships earlier this year, began aggressively and looked like she was in control as she opened up a 10-6 lead.

But a flurry of errors allowed Matsumoto to stage a comeback as the Japanese won seven straight points to take the lead. The Indian managed to stem the run but could not avoid losing the game.

The US Open finalist was much more comfortable with her shot selection in the second game and raced to a 15-9 win.

However, errors once again pegged her back at the start of the third game and it was clear that the top seed was under pressure as the players changed ends with the Indian trailing 5-8. Those nerves definitely settled as she clinched four straight points to take the lead at 9-8 and then used her flat tosses and cross smashes to outplay her opponent.

"It is difficult to play against Matsumoto as she slows down the game. So, I knew that I had to be aggressive. I am happy that I am assured of a medal," said Tanvi.

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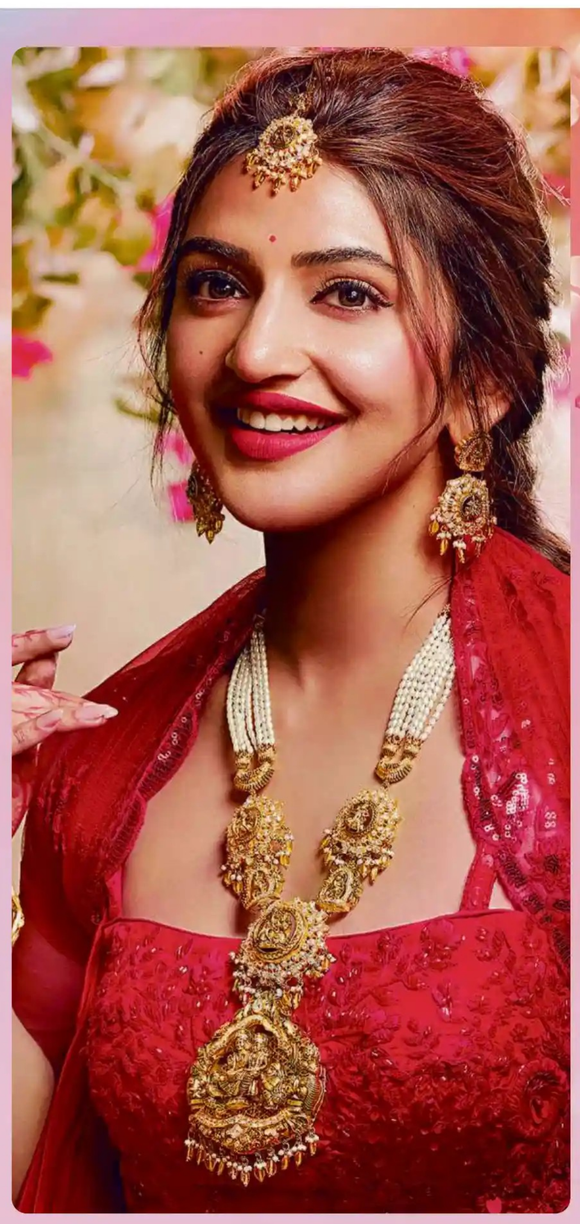

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DECCAN HERALD
Saturday, October 18, 2025

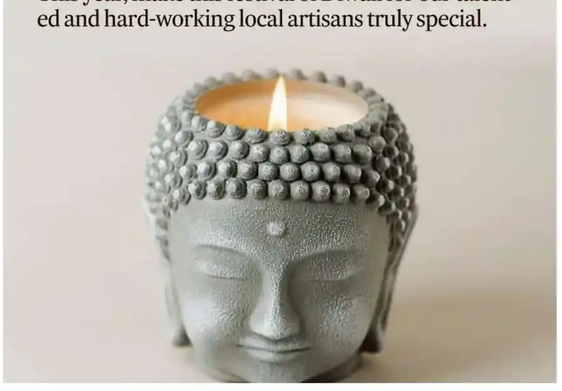
ADVERTORIAL & PROMOTIONAL LIFESTYLE FEATURE

DH DECCAN HERALD
Wknd.

Shop with your heart

This Diwali, for your last-minute shopping, buy from the artisans who bring the festival to life. From hand-painted diyas and embroidered potlis to handwoven drapes and brass decor, local craftspeople infuse every festive piece with heart and intention.

Shopping at neighbourhood markets or for small homegrown brands not only preserves traditional artistry but also uplifts entire communities who depend on festive sales for their livelihood. Each handcrafted item carries a story - of skill, patience and culture passed down generations. So, wander through your city's festive haats, explore pop-ups, and meet the makers behind the magic. This year, make this festival of Diwali for our talented and hard-working local artisans truly special.



Robotic knee replacement has transformed orthopaedic care at Aster CMI Hospital

Dr Thirumalesh K Reddy shares some insights on evolving techniques, myths and the promise of robotics in orthopaedics

With 26 years of experience and advanced training in the UK, Dr Thirumalesh K Reddy, Lead Consultant – Joint Replacement and Arthroscopic Surgery, Aster CMI Hospital, has witnessed orthopaedics in India evolve from muscle-intensive procedures to technology-driven precision. "When I was in training, joint replacement was something new and rare in Bengaluru. Only a few surgeons were performing it," he recalls. "That rarity fascinated me and inspired my specialization."

Today, Dr Thirumalesh stands at the forefront of a new era in orthopaedic surgery. "If I look back 20 years, the change has been phenomenal. Everything - from implants and instruments to imaging - has become more refined. Earlier, orthopaedics demanded sheer muscle strength. Now, it's all about technique, skill and technology," he says, adding that this shift has even encouraged more women to enter the field.

One of the most exciting advancements at Aster Hospital is the introduction of robot-assisted knee replacement. "This second-generation robotic system allows us to plan surgeries with extreme precision," explains Dr Thirumalesh. "A CT scan taken before the operation is uploaded to the robot, which helps map out exactly how much bone needs to be resected and how much correction is required. It minimises soft-tissue dissection, which means less pain and faster recovery for patients."

Robotic surgery: Less pain quicker recovery

- It's a new era in orthopaedics. Everything - from implants and instruments to imaging - has become more refined
- The second-generation robotic system at Aster CMI Hospital allows us to plan surgeries with extreme precision
- Robotic surgery means less pain and quicker recovery
- Joint replacement through robotic surgery ensures better implant alignment and longer-lasting results
- Patients can often walk within 8-10 hours after surgery

Robotic assistance, he notes, also ensures better implant alignment and longer-lasting results. "It's about precision you can see and outcomes you can feel," he says. "Patients can often walk within 8-10 hours after surgery and recover without walking aids in just a few weeks."

Dr Thirumalesh K Reddy

Despite these breakthroughs, Dr Thirumalesh points out that myths about joint replacement persist. "Many patients believe knee or hip replacements are not for the elderly, whether they will be able to go through such a surgery or recovery is unbearably painful, while in fact these surgeries are meant for the elderly. With modern pain management and advanced rehabilitation, that's no longer true".

He emphasises the value of early intervention and preventive care. "Arthritis progresses in stages. At the first signs - pain, stiffness or difficulty in movement - lifestyle changes can slow deterioration," he advises. Maintaining a healthy weight, avoiding prolonged standing or squatting and regular muscle-strengthening exercises can protect joints for years to come.

"Orthopaedic care today is not just about surgery - it's about helping people move better, live pain-free and age gracefully", he concludes.

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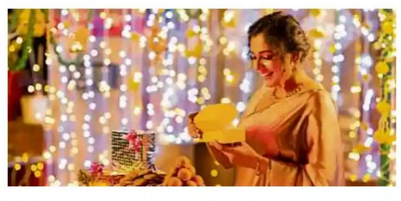
DIWALI DELIGHTS

An attractive presentation makes a difference when you hand over a gift
GIFT BOX

WEEKEND LIFESTYLE FEATURE

THOUGHTFUL GIFT

Before choosing a gift, spend some time thinking of what the person may treasure. You will get some hints from the person's hobby, interests, profession etc. Then, choose something that will be useful and of value. It shows you care and it's not just a token festival season must-do.



MAKE IT PERSONAL

There's nothing like a personal touch to say 'I care'. A gift that's picked off the shelf can be personalised with an engraving or coupled with another item that together will be of use to the person. For example, a pen set will go well with personalised stationery for a person who uses them daily.

While it's easy to choose gifts for family and friends, gifting something your colleagues will cherish isn't as simple. Jayanthi Madhukar has some ideas

GIFT SOME JOY

Nothing like the festive season to spread some cheer with gifts. Choosing gifts for your loved ones is quite easy as you will most likely have a sense of their taste. Colleagues, however, can pose more of a challenge. Given the hours you spend together, thoughtful tokens of appreciation are ideal. To make things easier, here is a curated list of work-appropriate presents - suitable for both desks and shared spaces.

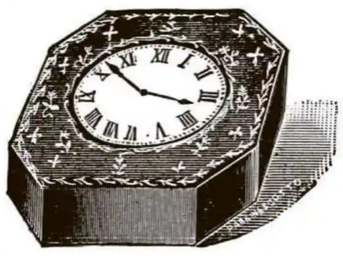
Gifts for the desk

One of the easiest categories to shop for, desk gifts offer variety and practicality. Think potted plants, Daruma dolls (Japanese wish dolls), colourful hourglasses, porcelain mugs, compact thermoses, coasters, unique bookends, small organisers for drawers or desktops, and stationery sets. They are available on a budget, are cheerful and serve as a daily reminder of your gesture.

"I usually buy a lot of these little knick-knacks when a sale is on," says Namita Biswas, a PR executive. "I enjoy gifting them to my co-workers and later, spotting them on their desks."

White elephant gifts

A twist on traditional gifts, white elephant gifts are meant to amuse more than impress. Arvind Reddy, a HR consultant, recalls one such gift that still gets attention. "A colleague once named a star after my nickname and gifted me the certificate. It was absurd, but I have framed it. People always ask about it - it is a great conversation starter." Funny and slightly ridiculous items work best here, think novelty keychains, vintage-style paperweights, motivational posters, desk signs with cheeky quotes, calendar tear-offs, chopstick holders or even retro ink pots.



Festive hampers

If you are looking at making a grand gesture, hampers are a classic choice. Tailor the contents to a theme - perhaps a gourmet cooking basket with herbs, spices and infused oils, or a traditional Indian hamper with sweets, savouries and nuts. Or go the classic Western route with wine, cake and biscuits. Use trays or wicker baskets to package the items as it not only elevates the presentation but also makes them easier to hand out.

Apart from food hampers, you could also make care hampers for some special colleagues, perhaps those who work in your team. You could put together small kits containing winter care items such as lip balm, hand cream, handmade soaps, moisturisers and face masks. Perhaps a make-up kit suitable for the winter.

Similarly, you could make DIY relaxation kits with mini scented candles, herbal teas and essential oils along with an aroma diffuser. A hamper with 'pick-me-ups' like teabags, coffee sachets and dark chocolates will be greatly appreciated by workmates.

Munchies as gifts

No festive season feels complete without treats. Desk snacks are not only morale boosters but also a small comfort for those working through the holidays. For the chocolate lovers (often easily identified by their regular raids on your chocolate stash), consider a curated selection of quality confections.

You could also make DIY goodie bags from bulk packs of individually wrapped sweets - perfect for handing out to floormates or those who stop by your desk. Indian sweets, in particular, bring seasonal joy. Many mithai shops offer boxes with just four pieces - ideal for personal gifting.

Alternatively, place a large box of sweets in the break room or cafeteria and let colleagues dig in at lunchtime.

Beetle Bailey

BEETLE BROUGHT YOU FLOWERS?
YES. WASN'T THAT THOUGHTFUL?
4/26
NASTURTIUMS! I HAVE THOSE IN MY GARDEN OUTSIDE
MAYBE NOT SO THOUGHTFUL?
GREG + MORT WALKER
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JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

RDOWL

CLOLA

EILGSH

FWLEAF

We were research partners and roommates at grad school. Oh, the stories I can tell.
And you still hang out with him?
We just can't get away from each other.
THE TWO MEN COMPETING IN THE GOLF TOURNAMENT WERE ---

Get the free JUST JUMBLE app • Follow us on Twitter @Play-Jumble

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

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Answers

The two men competing in the golf tournament were — FELLOW FELLOWS

WORLD LOCAL SLEIGH WAFFLE

HITORI-118

8	6	1	7	5	5	4	3
3	1	8	5	2	6	4	4
5	5	3	1	6	3	2	6
1	8	5	2	2	4	5	6
6	1	2	6	3	7	8	5
4	6	5	8	5	3	5	2
6	2	4	6	5	8	7	1
8	7	6	4	1	2	2	5

SOLUTION for HITORI-118

5	■	2	1	4	6	7	■
1	7	8	5	■	4	2	6
2	■	3	■	8	5	■	4
■	8	7	3	6	2	1	■
6	5	4	■	2	■	8	1
■	2	■	6	1	3	5	■
4	■	6	2	5	8	■	3
3	4	5	■	7	1	6	8

To solve the puzzle: Eliminate numbers by filling in squares so that remaining cells in that row or column do not repeat that number more than once. Filled-in cells cannot be horizontally or vertically adjacent. The un-filled cells must form a single component connected horizontally and vertically.

CROSSWORD CHALLENGE 119

EASY

ACROSS
1 Recreation (5)
6 Might (5)
9 Previously (7)
10 Wash (5)
11 Turning machine (5)
12 Danger (5)
13 Rots (7)
15 Perform (3)
17 Poems (4)
18 Part of a diocese (6)
19 Flowering plant (5)
20 Followed (6)
22 Insult (4)
24 Fish eggs (3)
25 Vie (7)
26 Moroccan capital (5)
27 Ship's room (5)
28 Of the sun (5)
29 Friendly (7)
30 Pale (5)
31 Pasted (5)

DOWN
2 Drew (6)
3 Responds (6)
4 Brown (3)
5 Insects (5)
6 Aquatic bird (7)
7 Spoken (4)
8 Morals (6)
12 Conceited (5)
13 Lobby (5)
14 Feeling (5)
15 Passageway (5)
16 Fraction (5)
18 Fulcrum (5)
19 M East country (7)
21 Wanderers (6)
22 Leisurely walk (6)
23 Anxiety (6)
25 American 'sweets' (5)
26 Cereal crop (4)
28 Droop (3)

CRYPTIC

ACROSS
1 Such letters constitute mail, naturally (5)
6 Dress the wounds of a dog? (5)
9 When a spider gets entangled, it's hopeless! (7)
10 Salute with tears in one's eyes? (5)
11 Endless calls? (5)
12 Money for food (5)
13 Quarrelled over a terrible umpiring decision (4,3)
15 Fiendish fate? (3)
17 The responsibility isn't on you (4)
18 Smooth, for example, in a lot of rough treatment (6)
19 Sadness at Stamford Bridge? (5)
20 Toy with one's food? (6)
22 Live on a ship (the Queen Elizabeth?) (4)
24 Caught in some shady deal (3)
25 About to go to a place for meeting a government department (7)
26 The tag can be all wrong (5)
27 Dishonest talk about a point (5)
28 One possible icon involved in an architectural order (5)
29 A movie we back (7)
30 A piano in a thousand (5)
31 A vital man, when up to this, is full of tension (5)

DOWN
2 Get tough (6)
3 Due to certain criteria, is out of business (6)
4 It can catch creatures, but not by the gross (3)
5 Wear ostentatiously, just for fun (5)
6 Plagiarists fit only to mash praties (7)
7 Redhead to help out in getting dry (4)
8 Strong, firm little fellow (6)
12 Germ the French get, being of sound military significance (5)
13 Not back for the tough outer casing (5)
14 Transparent lid covering a portion of duck (5)
15 Scoffed in threatening fashion (5)
16 Put the light out and have a party with Sue, perhaps (5)
18 Woman twice left out, and that's straight! (5)
19 Cried and suffered when interrupted by tea, unsuitably (7)
21 Bacon's right for Jane (6)
22 Buzz off and get one free (6)
23 Looking up, lying (6)
25 Regular payments in the current series (5)
26 Green fabric? (4)
28 Trouble getting half a firkin! (3)

SOLUTIONS TO CROSSWORD CHALLENGE 119

EASY
ACROSS: 1, Sport 6, Power 9, Earlier 10, Clean 11, Lathe 12, Peril 13, Festers 15, Act 17, Odes 18, Parish 19, Lupin 20, Ensued 22, Slur 24, Roe 25, Contend 26, Rabat 27, Cabin 28, Solar 29, Cordial 30, Ashen 31, Glued.
DOWN: 2, Pulled 3, Reacts 4, Tan 5, Flies 6, Pelican 7, Oral 8, Ethics 12, Proud 13, Foyer 14, Sense 15, Aisle 16, Third 18, Pivot 19, Lebanon 21, Nomads 22, Stroll 23, Unease 25, Candy 26, Rice 28, Sag.

CRYPTIC
ACROSS: 1, Chain 6, Patch 9, Despair 10, Greet 11, Rings 12, Bread 13, Fell out 15, End 17, On-us 18, L-e.g.-ato 19, Blues 20, Trifle 22, Be-SS 24, Had 25, Re-venue 26, Label 27, Ch-E-at 28, Ionic 29, We-stern 30, Grand 31, Key-Ed (up).
DOWN: 2, Harden 3, I-deal-s 4, Net 5, Sport 6, Pirates 7, A-r-id 8, Co.-gent 12, Bug-le 13, For-t-h 14, L-uc-id 15, Eaten 16, Do-use 18, L-Eve-L 19, Bl-eat-ed 21, R-Asher 22, Beg-one 23, Supine 25, Rents 26, Lawn 28, Irk.

DH DECCAN HERALD
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FESTIVE CHEER

Get your dining table to reflect the festive ambience of the season with diyas, flowers and colourful tongue-ticklers

TABLE MANNERS

WEEKEND LIFESTYLE FEATURE

AT YOUR SERVICE

Prepare a serving base for the sweets. It can be an ornamental tray, bowl with carvings or even painted glass plate. Serve the sweets as a part of the festivities – with festive decor. Surprise your guests with a creative display of sweets on the dining table.

SWEET GRAZING BOARD

If you are inviting guests for a Diwali party, a grazing board with a variety of sweets and savories is a great idea. Next to the buffet table, it will be a focal point and a must-do for all. Garnish with fruit slices, nuts and fresh flowers. Watch your guests indulge, diet restrictions forgotten!

Sweet Treat

On a platter

The way you serve sweets makes a difference. When friends come calling, presenting sweets aesthetically speaks volumes of the warmth behind serving them. Avoid the regular plates and trays. Get ornamental trays and bowls for a festive touch. It makes the sweets that much more irresistible too!

Plate decor

Use fresh flowers and banana leaves as decor objects on a plate of sweets. The aesthetics go well with the festive ambience all around. If you are gifting sweets, include a small decor object too. Serve the sweets with nuts and dry fruits strewn around on the plate.

LAYER FOR APPEAL

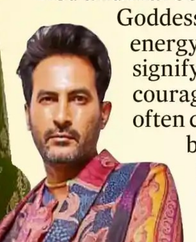
Make the sweets appealing by layering them on a stand. Bunch them together based on colour and texture. Contrasting colours next to each other adds a decor element to the display. Create a centre-piece of sweets on your dining table that invites your guests to taste all varieties on display.

Festival of lights and style

Prasad Bidapa dips into some colours that represent the inner and outer radiance that Diwali celebrates

Festive Fashion

Model: Dolly Singh
Brand: Sourgya



Model: Rakesh Chengappa
Brand: Sangria

Diwali, deeply rooted in spiritual significance, is also a powerful source of fashion inspiration, allowing people to connect with the festive spirit through their attire, particularly with a rich and symbolic colour palette. While Diwali is not traditionally associated with a specific daily colour code like Navratri, the festival naturally embraces a set of colours that embody its themes of prosperity, joy and new beginnings. These colours are not merely a festive dress code - they represent the inner and outer radiance that Diwali celebrates.

Here's what they symbolise:

Gold and yellow: Symbolising wealth, success and the auspicious glow of lamps, these are the typical colours of Diwali. Yellow brings forth joy, optimism and warmth, while gold reflects prosperity and divine light.

Red and maroon: Representing Goddess Lakshmi's energy, these colours signify strength and courage. They are often chosen for new beginnings and for the central worship rituals.

Royal blue and deep green: These jewel tones embody dignity, serenity and growth. Deep green signifies harmony and new beginnings, while royal blue offers a sophisticated and rich look.

Pink and orange: These softer, yet vibrant colours, reflect energy, enthusiasm and compassion. Orange is frequently seen in festive decor, and pink embodies love and harmony.

White and off-white: Symbolising purity and peace, these serve as beautiful, calm foundations for outfits, especially when accented with gold or colourful embroidery.

Model: Amrutha Prashanth
Brand: Sangria

Light up your wardrobe

For fashion enthusiasts, the opulent colour palette of Diwali offers an unparalleled opportunity for creative expression. The focus shifts from a daily change to choosing the most resplendent and auspicious look for the main celebration.

Some combos for the season:

Regal gold and red: A red saree or lehenga with intricate gold zari work exudes a fiercely regal and traditional aura, perfect for the Goddess Lakshmi Puja ceremony.

Vibrant and cheerful: A vibrant yellow anarkali or kurta with mirror work brings a cheerful glow, reflecting the light of the diyas.

Sophisticated statements: A royal blue velvet blouse paired with a richly embroidered skirt makes a sophisticated and memorable statement.

Graceful purity: A simple white or cream silk kurta-pyjama or saree accented with heavy gold jewellery reflects a sense of calm elegance and grace amidst the vibrant celebrations.

Photographer: Jiten Agarwal

Carved by craft, crowned by light

Diwali collections by C. Krishniah Chetty Group

An exquisite fusion of artistry and elegance, the Kundalavelai Pen features 18KT gold, 54.100 CTS of African cabochon rubies, and Valanda-cut diamonds, making it a rare collectible for connoisseurs of fine luxury.

A rare masterpiece in 22kt gold, adorned with rubies and pearls, depicting the legendary eight-headed Ashtamukha Gandaberunda. Designed as a guardian talisman, it inspires resilience, shields from negative forces and brings blessings of health, harmony and abundance.

Crafted in 22kt and 600 gm of gold, this bridal masterpiece celebrates the divine union of Goddess Madurai Meenakshi and Lord Sundareshwarar. From the goddess's celestial birth and warrior journey to the sacred wedding on Nandi, each motif - 64-petal flowers, Yali, Nandi, majestic parrots and the garland exchange - tells a timeless story. This adornment also embodies strength, love and destiny for the bride who carries them all.

Celebrate your sacred moments with The Divyaksha Collection – a magnificent bridal diamond suite inspired by the divine aura of Goddess Lakshmi. Each

piece, embellished with Lakshmi coins, lustrous pearls, vivid gemstones and graceful peacock motifs, embodies prosperity and beauty. From necklace to odiyanam, every jewel is a tribute to the goddess within every bride.

This festive season, let your light shine brighter. It's no secret that Diwali and jewellery share an unbreakable bond. As the Festival of Lights draws near, immerse yourself in the radiance of C Krishniah Chetty's exclusive Diwali collections - where shimmering gems and precious metals come together to mirror the joy of the season.

Let your sparkle guide your loved ones home and make every moment glow with timeless elegance. Light up your Diwali look. Express your individuality, embrace the brilliance and shop at C Krishniah Chetty today.

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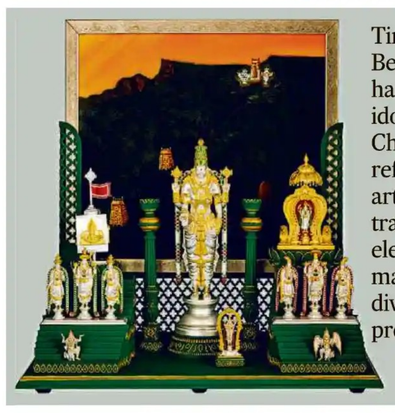

Tirumala Pancha Beralu – exquisitely handcrafted 925 silver idols by C Krishniah Chetty Group, reflecting masterful artistry, sacred tradition and timeless elegance. A rare masterpiece radiating divine blessings and prosperity.

LIGHT THEM UP

Sweet Treat

Diyas are the flavour of the season. Light a few diyas and place them around the sweets tray on the table. Take care to place the diyas strategically – you don't want a mishap when someone reaches for a sweet. Include a few clay diyas along with a gift box of sweets to add a festive touch to the package.

GARNISH FOR EFFECT

Most sweets can be garnished for aesthetics. You can use dry fruits, nuts or even sugar grains to garnish sweets. Saffron strands and edible gold/silver foil are popular options for many delicacies. Garnishing adds to the charm of the occasion, especially if it's a Diwali party you are hosting at home.

All that glitters is gold!

This is a day for auspicious beginnings and buying gold jewellery, says **Jayanthi Madhukar**

Precious Mettle

Traditionally, Dhanteras marks the beginning of Diwali festivities. Also known as Dhanatrayodashi, Goddess Lakshmi and Lord Kubera are specially worshipped on this day to seek blessings of wealth, prosperity and good fortune. With gold long associated with abundance, it is widely believed that purchasing the precious metal on Dhanteras invites financial success. For many, it remains one of the most anticipated days to buy gold, and as always, we spoke to those preparing to make purchases this year.

Samhita Lal's daughter was born two months ago, but she had held off on buying any gold for the newborn. "Dhanteras was just a few months away, so I decided to wait for the auspicious day to buy my daughter's first gold earrings," she says. Most of the jewellery she owns, she adds, was bought on this day. "It is a tradition I like to follow, especially after I started my own business. It gives me the incentive to save up during the rest of the year as well."

With gold prices on the rise, Meghana Dutta opted earlier this year to invest in a gold chit fund with her family jeweller. "My family has been buying gold from this jewellery shop in south Bengaluru for decades, so I decided to set aside some money for the chit," she explains. "I've been doing this for seven years now, and even if the chit is done a month or so before Dhanteras, I always come on Dhanteras to collect the jewellery." This year, she has her eye on a gold chain for her daughter. "I typically choose solid, plain ornaments so I don't end up spending too much on making charges."

Sudarshan Rao, who recently quit his IT job to launch a start-up, prefers to invest in gold coins rather than jewellery. "Gold is a tangible asset that appreciates over time - sometimes exponentially," he says.

"Ornaments often carry sentimental value, making them harder to part with in times of need. That is why I opt for gold coins which can easily be liquidated. Now that I am running my own company, I value such assets more than ever."

While most turn to gold, K Aruna, manager of a small NGO, varies her purchases depending on what she can afford. "I usually buy gold earrings or rings on Dhanteras, but if that's not possible, I go for silver jewellery," she explains. "It is said that precious metals attract wealth, good luck and positive energy, so silver adds value as well." This year, she intends to buy a gold locket for herself and her mother. "They are simple designs, but I will have the satisfaction of bringing Goddess Lakshmi home."

According to jeweller Sandeep Rao, purchasing gold or silver ornaments, coins or even metal utensils is considered auspicious. "We usually have a range of gold- or silver-plated Goddess Lakshmi idols for those who want to bring one home for the Lakshmi Puja during Diwali," he says.

DH DECCAN HERALD
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FESTIVE TIME

Soak your new clay diyas in water overnight to prevent them from absorbing oil

FESTIVE TIP

WEEKEND LIFESTYLE FEATURE

FESTIVE AROMA

A mix of light and fragrance, scented diyas elevate your festive ambiance instantly. Infused with notes of sandalwood, rose or cinnamon, they make spaces festive while adding a cozy touch. These aromatic diyas double up as thoughtful gifts during Diwali celebrations.

COLOURFUL TOUCH

Colourful and playful, painted clay diyas are perfect for adding colour to your festive set-up. Available in mirror-work, glitter or hand-painted floral patterns, they can be arranged in patterns or on trays. Mix and match shades like gold, red and turquoise to bring a joyful pop of colour to any corner.

Diwali **Diyas**

Decor with diyas

From traditional to contemporary, diyas remain at the heart of Diwali decor. Their soft, golden glow signifies purity, hope and new beginnings. Whether you prefer the rustic charm of clay or the sparkle of glass, here are some ways to illuminate your home this festive season.

EARTHY WITH TERRACOTTA

The most traditional of all, terracotta diyas bring a touch of authenticity to Diwali decor. Hand-painted with vibrant colours or left raw for an earthy finish, they look stunning when arranged on stairways or windowsills. Pair them with marigold garlands or rangoli designs for a warm glow that celebrates tradition.

SHEEN OF BRASS

Symbolic of prosperity and purity, brass diyas never go out of style. Their timeless sheen adds elegance to any set-up - be it the puja room or coffee table. Opt for antique-style pieces or intricate temple designs. When polished, their golden gleam enhances the festive aura and reflects light beautifully.

GLOW ON WATER

Graceful and serene, floating diyas look beautiful in bowls or urlis filled with water and flower petals. Choose glass or metal versions for a soft, shimmering glow. Add rose petals or essential oils to the water for a fragrant touch that makes entrances calm and inviting.

Modern twist

Tea-light holders come in countless styles - from lotus-shaped to metallic lattice designs. They're easy to arrange on tables, shelves or outdoor spaces. Cluster them in groups of three or five for visual balance. Their subtle glow complements both traditional and minimalist festive decor perfectly.

Make a gift!

Handmade gifts are trending this season, writes **Ikyatha Yerasala**

Festive **Spirit**

Pics courtesy: Gulafshan

As the city shimmers with fairy lights and marigolds, a quiet shift is taking place this Diwali. Amid the glittering boxes of factory-made sweets and mass-produced hampers, many are turning towards something more special - handmade gifts.

In an age of online shopping and quick delivery, there's something deeply comforting about a gift with a personal touch - one that carries the warmth of someone's hands. Small business owners and local creators are witnessing a surge in demand for their work. Hand-painted diyas, homemade candles, artisanal chocolates - this festive season, handcrafted gifts are a hit.

Priya Jain, entrepreneur, has been creating chocolates shaped like firecrackers this Diwali season. "Besides this, I am also making candles and bath products. There is more awareness now about handmade products and people like unique gifts. In the last few years, there has been a definite rise in the demand for handmade products", expresses Priya. These made-to-order gifts allow personalisation and make the gifting experience unique.

Hand-painted diyas too are popular this festive season. "This Deepavali, I am making hampers with hand-painted diyas, hand-made cards along with some chocolates. What sets handmade gifts apart from mass-produced stuff is that I can write customised messages for each hamper. No two hampers will be exactly alike and there will be always an option to customise it which is not available in mass-produced gifts", says Sneha Hulsogi, a software engineer.

Pic courtesy: Priya Jain

Pic courtesy: cutecrafts78

Diwali hampers can comprise various assorted stuff that make the gifting experience creative and distinctive.

Homemaker Gulafshan is an artist who's made festive hampers using resin art. "I've made resin light holders and resin pieces which can be used as home decor. I've also designed puja thalis to be gifted as part of a special hamper. Handmade gifts show that a lot of time and effort has gone into creating them and it makes the experience more meaningful".

The camera is served first!

Shilpi Madan has a quick guide to make your festive delicacies instant hits on the 'Gram

Food **Frame**

Everyone seems to love taking pictures of the food they eat. Shoutouts on social media are a brilliant way of creating FOMO! It's fun clicking away, especially in festive settings when the stage is set with flowers, diyas, music and beautiful decor.

Here is your quick guide to maximising on your clicks and getting super content ready to drip feed on social media!

Light them up

"Ensure light falls on the food from behind or from the side of food," says chef and food stylist Michael Swamy. "Photograph fresh food immediately as it loses lustre fast. Learn to create a story within the image. Your picture or video must make the viewer want to taste it. You can achieve this by bringing about a sense of emotion in the food".

Move it

Storytelling is king. Twirl the cocktail, make the dish pirouette, zoom in and out to lend a sense of texture and appeal to the subject of your shot. The dynamism plays up the appeal significantly. Build up the essence of your reel by peppering with decor, location shots and videos, bartending wizardry, close ups of curious moments and more. Follow your instinct.

People perfect

Click candid shots, photographing people with the food (not gobbling it) in the environment. "It works beautifully in capturing the essence of the party," says influencer Mohit Chadda. "You can give your image depth of field to capture their story and elements around them, but remember to be quick else the moment is lost. You can focus on charming grazing boards, elegantly-poured cocktails, lights and elements of decor for filler shots."

Make-up cues for party nights

SHILPI MADAN

Are you wondering how to look impeccable even when the parties run till the wee hours of the morning? Here's your easy guide to looking fabulous with make-up intact.

Base story

When you apply the concealer or base - focus extra on the sides of your mouth and nose, and on the under-eye area. Follow up till your ears with uniform application. Ensure you rub a little over your lips for a clean canvas.

Line your lips with the lip-liner and fill in generously. Apply the lipstick, more in the middle part of the lower lip, and top up with gloss.

Powder up

Choose eye shadow in powder format as cream formats tend to settle into the crease of your eyelids, making you look tired. Dust on gently and evenly with a fine brush. Fill in your brows with a dark brown or a pebble grey pencil – jet black looks too harsh on most skin - and comb up for the perfect arch.

Keep handy

A clean ear bud and a cotton swab must always stay in your bag, together with a lipstick for touch up, a tiny perfume and a comb. Use the bud to zap away smudges of the eyeliner if it settles at the inner end of your eyes when you are awake till late. It works well in zapping away smudges of kohl from the under-eye area too that appear if you yawn too much.
A cotton swab wicks away oiliness from your face.

Refresh point

Pop into the washroom to touch up your lipstick and brush your hair in place, to ensure that the pictures come out perfect! Refresh on the go, always, to look your best. Travel sprays are a must as they help you look impeccable on the run.

Grab some limelight

Shilpi Madan has some tips to help you grab the limelight at the festive season parties

Glow **On**

Everyone loves being the centre of attention. Dress up to own your share of the limelight. As you sashay into the party make sure you have the sparklers in place to steal the show

Dots that dare

A stunning bindi on your forehead spells more than just shine through its skilful artistry, especially if it is a hand-painted one. Shape a peacock, a unique letter, or a symbol with a diamante to match the splash out of colours – monochromes or contrasting - in the forehead dressing.

Tassels and danglers

Lehenga charms with pearls, beads and golden trinkets hanging are a must for that shiny appeal. The drawstring of your ghaghra or lehenga, or even a long skirt, undergoes an elevation with these jazzy accessories replete with gota patti, sequins and zardozi.

Circle wizardry

Wear a kamarbandh to add a spot of shiny style. From gleaming in the lights to tinkling when you move, it adds to the feminine charm. Wear elegant payals that sparkle around your ankles or ghunghroo-laced kadas to add to the delicate appeal of your wrists. Else a gold watch works the magic.

Superstar shining

Ornamentation in ensembles is in. Remember Aishwarya Rai's diamond-encrusted sleeves and back in the black sherwani she wore some days ago at the runway in Paris? From golden threads on silk to semi-precious stones encrusted on the blouse to crystals and heirloom motifs, zardozi and brocade, the fabric does all the talking.

Pearlies out

Wedging a tiny diamond in your teeth at the dentist's clinic is the latest trend in making a winking stone add to the shine of your smile in front of the cameras. Remember to sign up for a dental clean-up and flaunt your pearlies to advantage.

Mehendi art

Bring on the sticker bindis for a spot of sparkle and sheen to liven up the mehendi designs on the back of your hands and on your feet. They stay on for the duration of the party and add a spot of style.

Accessorise for effect

Whether golden juttis or palazzos, a nath or a maang tika, a streak of glitter and glow shadow beneath your eyes, or bronzer mixed with moisturiser for applying on your limbs and back, work up the shimmer and shine on.

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Finders Please Contact: 9899334083

Change of Name

I, SHUSHRUTHA S R daughter of Shivalingappa V, residing at 39 Merudhama 1st cross cmv layout guddadahalli hebbal RT nagar post Bangalore 560032, have changed my name from SHUSHRUTHA S R to ANKITHA SUSHMA by affidavit sworn before a Notary Public (LEELA Bangalore) on 15/10/2025. Henceforth, I shall be known as Ankitha Sushma for all official and legal purposes.

I, MAIMUNA IQBAL, W/o Mr. Iqbal Ahmed residing at No. 12, Serpentine Street, Richmond Town, Bengaluru 560025 have changed my name from MAIMUNA IQBAL AHMED to MAIMUNA IQBAL, Vide Affidavit dated 15-10-2025 sworn before Notary Syed Masood Ahmed, Bangalore. This is applicable for all Purposes, including passport.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **P Lakshmanan** S/o Perumal, residing at No. 202, Manjunatha Colony, Bengaluru South, Banashankari 3rd Stage, Bengaluru-560085 have changed my name to **DANIEL** vide affidavit dated 17.10.2025 before notary Veena K, Bengaluru. Henceforth I shall be called **DANIEL** only

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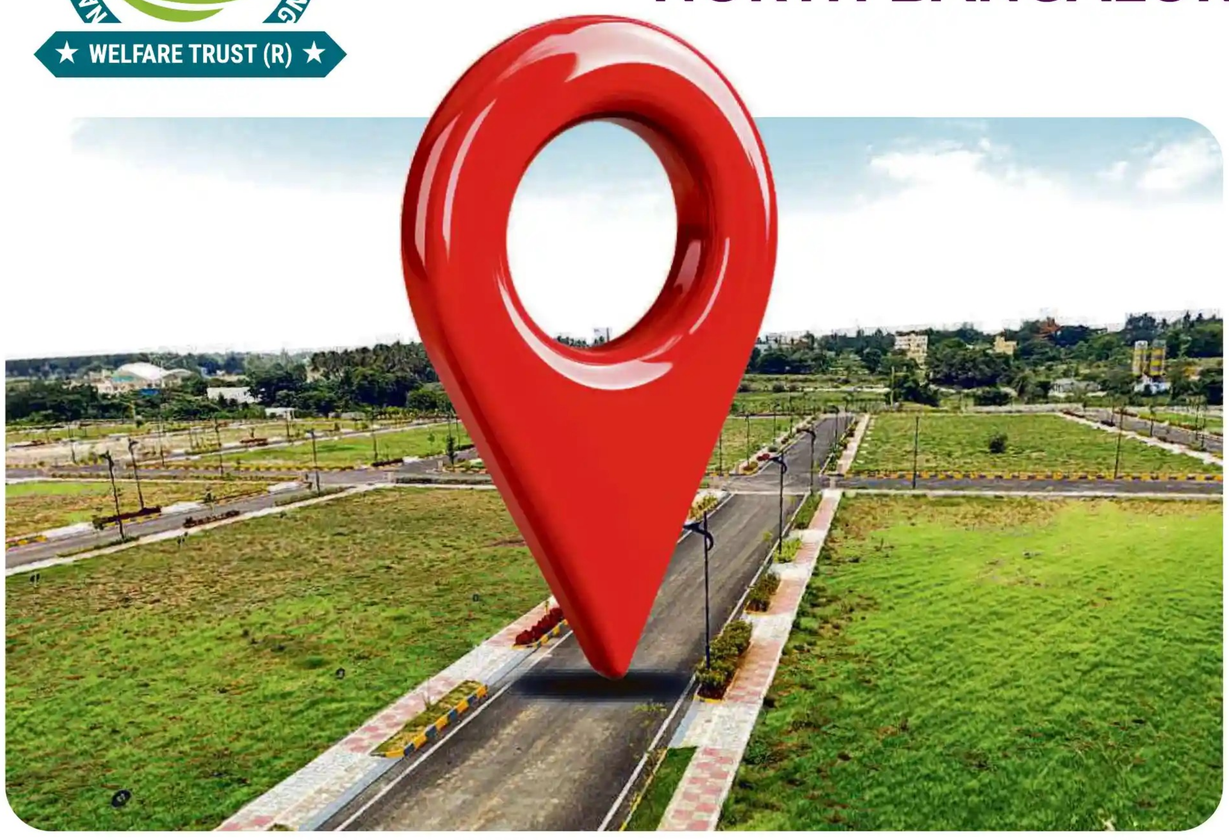

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